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Washington warned India against plot to kill Pannun in U.S.: report

The Hindu Bureau

The U.S. government thwarted a plot to kill Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on U.S. soil, and "warned" New Delhi about its alleged involvement in the plot, the *Financial Times*, a British daily, has reported.

In response, India's External Affairs Ministry said a security-related discussion took place with the U.S. During the course of the discussions, "the U.S. side shared some inputs pertaining to nexus between organised criminals, gun runners, terrorists and others. The inputs are a cause of concern for both countries and they decided to take necessary follow-up action," the official spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, said in a statement.

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Workers in Uttarkashi tunnel closer to freedom

Rescue likely today for 41 trapped since November 12; just a few metres of debris stand between them and the outside world as relief teams managed to push horizontal pipes up to 45 metres

Ishita Mishra
SILKYARA

The 41 workers stuck in a collapsed tunnel at Silkyara in Uttarakhand are likely to see sunlight on Thursday, for the first time since they were trapped on November 12, say rescue agencies working round the clock to create an escape route.

By 5 p.m. on Wednesday, agencies had managed to drill through 45 metres of debris to reach the workers trapped in a section between 53 metres and 59 metres.

However, the rescue work, which picked up pace over the past 36 hours, was halted for a brief period late in the evening when the auger machine used to bore through debris struck an obstacle, reportedly a giant rock. The operation was delayed as agencies mulled over the best way to remove the obstacle.

Critical phase: NDRF personnel engaged in rescue operations near the tunnel at Silkyara in Uttarakhand. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has reached Uttarkashi, aiming to meet the workers as soon as they come out.

A mock drill was conducted to ensure that the final phase of the rescue goes smoothly. An ambulance is being kept on standby to ferry the workers to a temporary hospital set up in the vicinity.

Alternative plan

The rescue teams are also working on a Plan B. Apart from horizontal drilling through the debris, vertical drilling is being done simultaneously at the side by SJVNL, according to Mahmood Ahmed, managing director of NHIDCL. He added that the THDCL has also initiated the construction of a rescue tunnel from the Barkot end, with four blasts already completed, resulting in a 9.1-metre drift. "Efforts are being made to carry out three blasts per day," he said.

In another attempt to rescue the workers, a perpendicular-horizontal drilling was continued by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

The vertical drilling toward the Barkot end is being done by the ONGC which has mobilised machinery from the U.S., Mumbai, and Ghaziabad for vertical boring.

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Two Army captains, two soldiers killed in Rajouri operation

Security personnel stand guard at the site after an encounter with militants in Rajouri district, J&K, on Wednesday. ANI

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Two Army captains and two soldiers were killed in an ongoing operation to flush out terrorists hiding in a village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, sources said.

A Jammu-based Army spokesman said the security forces launched joint operations in the Gulabgarh forest in the Pir Panjal Valley on November 19 following "specific intelligence" about the presence of militants.

"The terrorists have been injured and surrounded and operations are in progress, amid acts of valour and sacrifice by own bravehearts in trying to prevent collateral damage to women and children in the highest traditions of the Indian Army," the Army spokesman said.

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NEARBY

BMTC to increase airport bus services

BENGALURU
With growing demand for airport buses from various parts of the city, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is planning to increase Vayu Vajra airport bus services. Officials said the BMTC airport service transports an average of 13,000 passengers daily. » Page 2

Govt. move to tackle menace of fake marks cards

BENGALURU
To avoid the menace of fake marks cards, the State government has decided to make digital marks cards and educational certificates official for recruitments. » Page 5

Electrocution: Lokayukta initiates *suo motu* action against Bescom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking cognisance of the death of a 23-year-old woman and her nine-month-old daughter by electrocution at Kadugodi in Bengaluru on November 19, the Lokayukta initiated *suo motu* proceedings against the officials concerned.

In the order on November 22, Lokayukta directed the registrar to summon seven officials, including the Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Managing Director of Bescom, Chief Engineer and Superintendent Engineer, for questioning, and to record their statement by December 8.

The spot where a 23-year-old woman and her 9-month-old child were electrocuted, near Hope Farm, in Bengaluru on November 19.

Report sought

The Lokayukta directed the Superintendent of Police to conduct a spot inspection and investigation and submit a report by the next hearing scheduled for December 8.

In his order, Lokayukta B.S. Patil said that it's the duty of Bescom to ensure proper maintenance of electrical wires, carry out inspections regularly and attend to complaints immediately.

The accident abstract found on the Bescom website shows that from 2015-16 to 2021-22, on average, 200 to 280 accidents have been reported every year. *Prima facie*, there has been negligence on the part of officials entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the electrical line. Non-maintenance of electrical lines in a reasonable condition would amount to grave dereliction of duty, said Mr. Patil.

Such dereliction will prove fatal for people. Right to life means quality of life and nobody is safe without there being proper electric lines. Bescom is collecting electricity charges from the public, who, in turn, expect corresponding facilities from the authorities to make life comfortable and hassle-free. Uninsulated wires hanging in every corner of the street, trees and buildings, telephone poles and transformers pose a danger to people walking on pavements, the order stated.

The officials concerned failed to take the required precautions, which led to the accident and loss of life, and therefore, this matter requires detailed investigations to fix responsibilities and find a permanent solution to prevent such incidents in future, Mr. Patil said.

Caste census report to be delayed; BC panel chief's tenure to be extended

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The report of the much debated socio-economic survey (caste census) will be delayed as the State government is set to extend the tenure of the current chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, K. Jayaprakash Hegde, as the work on the survey report is yet to be completed. The State government has been under pressure to act on the survey after the Bihar government published the caste census recently.

K. Jayaprakash Hegde

Mr. Hegde – whose three-year tenure is set to end on November 25 – had earlier said that the report would be submitted before November.

However, he is now learnt to have sought time from the government to do so. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the term of the chairman would be extended till the time the report got ready for submission. The Cabinet meeting scheduled for Thursday would discuss the issue before a decision is taken on the length of the extension of the tenure, sources said.

The development comes in the backdrop of hectic lobbying by the two land owning dominant communities – Veerashaiva/ Lingayats and Vokkaligas – who have opposed release of the commission's report based on the data that they have termed as "unscientific".

Though the Congress at the national level is seeking a caste census to determine the status of OBCs, sources aware of the developments indicated that the government was set to extend the tenure in the light of the "perceived anger" of these communities that could impact the electoral outcome in the Lok Sabha elections next year.

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A SUMMIT OF SUCCESS

Once again, the Bengal Global Business Summit, now in its 7th edition, has achieved remarkable success, under the visionary leadership of **Mamata Banerjee,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal.

The successful 7th edition has attracted investments for the state, showcased Bengal's vast potential to the world and fortified strategic business partnerships with many countries.

Investment proposals received at the summit aggregate to:

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21-22 Nov '23

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ICA-D2105(15)/2023

A BG-BGE

Anshul Bhatt – the bright star of Indian bridge

WBF president Giannarigo Rona had only good things to say of the teenager, adding: 'His gold medal and championship win have the potential to do to the game what Viswanathan Anand's early success did to chess'

Kamesh Srinivasan

The game of bridge is mostly associated with grey hair, as it is more a cerebral game like chess. Just the way a bunch of young players are projecting India as a super power in chess, there is a boy who promises to set a trend in motion and do what Viswanathan Anand did to Indian chess, providing a brilliant identity.

Anshul Bhatt may be taking the baby steps in the game, but he has already won three gold medals in the World Youth Championship last year in Italy.

The president of the World Bridge Federation (WBF), Giannarigo Rona, was quite impressed with Anshul's performance and said, "His gold medal and championship win have the potential to do to the game what Viswanathan Anand's early success did to chess."

Martin Seligman, a renowned bridge player and professor at University of Pennsylvania was equally impressed by Anshul.

"There is a new star rising in India. I am particularly thrilled by Anshul Bhatt's triple gold, in pairs, teams and across all the formats. This seals India's position in the world of youth bridge. I am very impressed with Anshul's determination and endurance to play for eight hours a day for seven days in a row," said Seligman.

In the 20th edition of the HCL International Bridge in Delhi, the tenth standard student of Dhirubhai Ambani school in Mumbai, Anshul helped his team Maverick Prodigies to the pre-quarterfinals in the Team of Four Gold event. That event alone carried a total prize of Rs.1.24 crore, from an overall purse of Rs.2.6 crore, which makes it the richest bridge tournament in the world.

Interestingly, a bunch of youngsters from Poland, in their 20s, clinched the title, beating the Formidables team of Kiran Nadar and company, giving a hint that being young need not be a handicap in the game. Not any more.

"I have great support from the top players. It was a good experience this time, I hope to reach the semifinals or final next year of this event," said Anshul, quite at ease with his communication to the media.

The bright boy who got about a 15-minute conversation with Sachin Tendulkar before his World Championship and stays in contact with the superstar of world cricket, also reveals that the game of bridge has helped him connect with other successful people like Bill Gates and Anand Mahindra.

"I had an insightful conversation with Sachin. He helped me understand the importance of staying calm under pressure and manage expectations. He also advised me on maintaining a routine and managing endurance for the long event. More importantly, he asked me to stay focused despite the success," said Anshul.

Thanks to his achievements, clarity of thought and ease of expression, Anshul was selected as the "Personality of the year" in 2022, by the international Bridge Press Association.

During his visit to India early this year, Bill Gates made it a point to meet Anshul. He has also been giving space for Anshul in his tweets and Linkedin posts.

"It was fun meeting Anshul and picking his brain about our favourite pastime. Anshul, if you are ever looking for a new bridge partner, I am your guy," wrote Bill Gates on Instagram.

Bridge may not be that popular but Anshul is already very popular and has drawn the attention of people who matter.

When he was eight, Anshul was presented the Joan Gerard Award, for "the emerging player" in 2017 in the World Youth championship in Lyon, France. He was the youngest among hundreds of players from about 50 countries. He was chosen to carry the flag and take the oath to open the championship as the youngest ever participant.

He may be a bright young student of the game, but Anshul has realised the importance of taking up the role of a professor and teaching the game to the youth.

To help the game grow, Anshul does his bit by conducting a "boot camp", introducing the game and giving a taste of it to a bunch of about 50 students in Mumbai.

Bridge is a team game and needs four players, It is basically two versus two, and the partners do not communicate directly. They rely on their game skills to convey the cards they hold to their partners in their attempt to play a series of successful hands. So, individual brilliance may not help to be successful in the game. You do need partners with analytical skill and strong memory to win the big prizes.

"You play the game, because you love bridge. To grow and improve, you need to play the tournaments. You grow with partners and keep getting better at problem solving. More puzzles you solve, you get better in the game," said Anshul, who got introduced to the game at a very young age, owing to the keen interest shown by his father Mehul Bhatt.

He does enjoy playing many other games like squash, cricket, football and basketball, but is glued to bridge. With technology supporting the game, Anshul reveals that one can play bridge online for free, and on the mobile phone as well. It is a healthy of spending screen time.

He does point out that the major impediment for the growth of the game is "the stigma" attached to card games. Parents don't want to see their children playing cards. Also, the game is felt to be "too fast, or too slow".

"You can learn the game quick, but it is not an easy game," explained Anshul. It is quite challenging, and possibly takes years to master.

Anshul is just about trying to fast track his growth in the game, as much as the growth of the game in the country.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE GIST

- Anshul got about a 15-minute conversation with Sachin Tendulkar before his World Championship and said the game of bridge has helped him connect with other successful people like Bill Gates and Anand Mahindra
- Tendulkar helped me understand the importance of staying calm under pressure and manage expectations, Anshul says
- Anshul was selected as the "Personality of the year" in 2022, by the international Bridge Press Association
- He has realised the importance of taking up the role of a professor and teaching the game to the youth
- To help the game grow, Anshul does his bit by conducting a "boot camp", introducing the game and giving a taste of it to a bunch of about 50 students in Mumbai

With preseason looming, Inter Miami looks to focus on distributing workload

Associated Press
FORT LAUDERDALE

Inter Miami is putting together its preseason schedule, one that will likely have somewhere between four and six games early next year. There's a 34-game Major League Soccer season. There'll be appearances in the Leagues Cup, the U.S. Open Cup and the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

Oh, and there's national team duties for some players, too.

Careful planning

Add it all up, and Lionel Messi – the eight-time Ballon D'Or winner who turns 37 next summer – and many of his Inter Miami teammates will be asked to play a ton of football in 2024. And keeping Messi and other players as available as possible is part of the team's thinking as it formulates its plan for next year, Inter Miami sporting director Chris Henderson said Monday.

"I think the challenge is, from our performance staff, what can we do as a club to support these players and make sure that they are able to give as many minutes as they can," Henderson said.

"But there are times when we're going to have to balance the schedule."

Injuries were an issue for Inter Miami down the stretch this season, and Messi – who had a very busy schedule after joining the team, with the Leagues Cup tournament going on as well as U.S. Open Cup and MLS matches – eventually was slowed by a leg problem. Messi told reporters after an Argentina match in October that "it was very hard for us, playing every three days, with travel, with training."

"We're not machines, we're not robots," Sergio Busquets, another of Inter Miami's big midseason signings this summer, said in September. "We'd love to play all the matches and not be tired and not have injuries. But it's something we can't control."

Henderson said teams will rely on their depth when the schedule is at its busiest. It's also a good problem for teams to have going forward. Taking part of the CONCACAF Champions Cup is of particular significance to the club in 2024, coming on the heels of it winning the Leagues Cup title for its first trophy – the record 44th championship for the club and country in Messi's legendary career.

"I do think there's a lot of discussion at the league level in how we can alleviate some of these international windows and the congestion of the schedule," Henderson said. "But I think with the amount of tournaments that teams are taking part of with international duty, it's very hard to figure out. There's just isn't enough game days to sort it all out."

GETTY IMAGES

As demand increases, BMTC to add more buses to airport

Airport service operates on 17 routes with 132 buses scheduled each day, resulting in 912 trips

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

With growing demand for airport buses from various parts of the city, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is planning to increase Vayu Vajra airport bus services.

Commuters heading to the airport have been urging BMTC to enhance the frequency of airport buses. Poorna Ram, a regular commuter to Bengaluru airport, said: "The airport bus service is excellent and economical compared to taxis. Ever since I began using the airport buses from Whitefield, I've saved a lot of money. A one-way cab journey costs ₹1,000, whereas the bus fare is just around ₹350."

Officials said the BMTC airport service transports an average of 13,000 passengers daily, generating a revenue of ₹32 lakh. The service operates on 17 routes with a total of 132 buses scheduled each day, resulting in 912 trips. However, there is demand to introduce more routes as well as frequency.

Now that the purple line is fully operational, the BMTC plans to launch additional routes in response to passenger demand, particularly focusing on connections to metro stations. Kiran Raj, a commuter, said: "Since the purple line stretch is fully operational, many people without airport bus connectivity believe that more airport buses should be introduced on metro stretches, where those passengers can take airport buses."

The BMTC official said: "We currently have 16 trips from metro stations to Kempegowda International Airport, and we plan to introduce more such metro routes in the future based on passenger demand."

Meanwhile, the BMTC plans to replace most of the Airport Volvo buses with electric AC buses soon. The corporation aims to roll out 320 low-floor AC electric buses, each measuring 12 metres at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore under the Gross Cost Contract model.

"We are procuring 320 electric AC buses in which around 130 electric buses are planned to depute for airport routes," an official added. This decision follows the State government's approval to introduce electric AC buses into the existing fleet of BMTC.

Vayu Vajra route details

Place of origin	Metro station	Number of schedules per day
HAL main gate	Indiranagar, Halasuru	9
Banashankari TTMC	Banashankari	11
Brigade Meadows Kanakapura road	Silk Institute, Thalaghatapura, Raghuvanhalli, Doddakallasandra, J.P. Nagar, Sarakki	4
Kadugodi (via Siddapura)	Kadugodi, Hope Farm, K.R. Pura, Benniganahalli	6
Kadugodi (Via Hoodi)	Kadugodi, Hope Farm, ITPL, Hoodi, K.R. Pura, Benniganahalli	2
HSR BDA Complex	Trinity	11
Electronics City	Benniganahalli, K.R. Pura	19
Kuvempunagar	Benniganahalli, K.R. Pura	5
Chandapura	Benniganahalli, K.R. Pura	6
Sarjapur Wipro Junction	Benniganahalli, K.R. Pura	2
Electronics City Wipro Gate	Benniganahalli, K.R. Pura	4
Kempegowda Bus Station	Kempegowda station	16
Mysore Road	Attiguppe, Vijayanagar, Hosahalli, Rajajainagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Sandal Soap Factory	12
Whitefield TTMC (Via Vydehi, ITPL)	Nallurhalli, ITPL, Hope Farm, Kadugodi	5
BEML Layout 5th stage	Rajarajeshwari, Goraguntepalya	4

SOURCE: BMTC

The BMTC airport service transports an average of 13,000 passengers daily, generating a revenue of ₹32 lakh. FILE PHOTO

BMTC gets first set of non-AC electric buses from Tata Motors

Tata Motors won an order of 921 electric buses from BMTC in August 2022. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has received the first set of non-AC electric buses from Tata Motors, a commercial vehicle manufacturer, which are likely to be operational soon.

"The BMTC received a few buses out of the 921 non-AC electric buses from Tata Motors recently at the Shanthinagar depot. The electric buses are leased under the FAME-2 scheme," a BMTC official told *The Hindu*.

The BMTC decided to add more buses after witnessing a resurgence in daily ridership after implementation of the Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel for women in non-premium buses.

In August 2022, Tata Motors had won an order of 921 electric buses from BMTC. Under the tender by Convergence Energy Services Ltd. (CESL), Tata Motors will supply, operate, and maintain the 12-metre electric buses for a period of 12 years, as per the contract.

In July this year, BMTC received the first prototype of the 12-meter-long Tata non-AC electric bus, featuring a low-floor design and seating capacity for 25 passengers. The bus was deployed on the 96-A route.

"All the 921 electric buses will be inducted to the BMTC's fleet in a phased manner. Already, we have planned allocation of these buses to various depots and the work on the charging stations and other infrastructure to run these buses are going on," a BMTC official added.

As per the agreement, BMTC will deploy conductors and compensate Tata Motors at a rate of ₹41 per km.

The buses are expected to cover approximately 200 km each day.

Tata Motors will be responsible for providing drivers and managing maintenance tasks.

N. Manjula appointed MD in charge of K-RIDE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite rail activists demanding that the government appoint a full-time managing director for the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka)-K-RIDE, the agency which is implementing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), the State government has again appointed an incharge MD on Wednesday.

N. Manjula, who is secretary, Kannada and Culture Department, has been appointed in charge of the post of MD in K-RIDE, relieving Gaurav Gupta. A notification issued by the State government said that Ms. Manjula would hold the post with immediate effect till a new MD is selected.

The agency is a joint venture of the Ministry of Railways, and the State government established to implement a 148 km suburban rail project in the city.

Mr. Gupta was appointed in-charge MD of K-RIDE in August 2022.

Opposition BJP leaders urged the government to appoint a full-time MD. Bengaluru Central MP P.C. Mohan said, "The K-RIDE MD post is vacant, hampering Bengaluru's Suburban Rail Project. A committed MD is essential for meeting deadlines. Regrettably, the Congress government's use of temporary, non-full-time replacements reveals its lack of interest in executing this crucial project."

Six persons injured in LPG cylinder explosion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Six persons, including five of a family, were severely injured in an explosion following leakage of an LPG cylinder in a house in Weaver's Colony in Konanakunte on Wednesday.

The injured hailed from Banaras in Uttar Pradesh and had been living in a rented house for a few months. The incident occurred when Jamal, 32, woke up early in the morning and switched on the light. Due to the impact, a part of the asbestos sheet of the ceiling was blown away, the door and the window of the house shattered, and a car parked outside was damaged.

A woman identified as Ishwaramma also sustained injuries. Jamal, Naziya, 22, Irfan, 21, Gulab, 18, and Shahzad, 9, were sleeping and sustained burns.

Daily wage labourer held for killing senior citizen over road rage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vyalikaval police arrested a 27-year-old labourer on Wednesday for allegedly beating up a 77-year-old scooter rider over a road rage incident on November 15, following which he succumbed to his injuries the next day.

Initially, the police had registered a case of accident, but his son Satish Kumar K. noticed that his father had a clot in his eye and suspecting something fishy, he managed to collect CCTV footage to find that his father had been attacked by a biker and assaulted with a stone.

Satish Kumar filed a complaint with the police seeking action against the accused on November 17.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused, identified as Abraz Pasha and arrested him. The probe revealed that Krishnappa, a resident of Muneshwara block, was returning home and confronted Pasha, who was riding his bike in a rash manner.

Krishnappa advised Pasha to ride carefully and this enraged him. He attacked Krishnappa with the stone and sped away. Krishnappa sustained head injuries and collapsed on the road bleeding, said the police.

Passers-by noticed him lying on the road and informed the police. The Sadashivanagar traffic police alerted his family before he was rushed to the hospital, where he succumbed later.

Man arrested for stealing tender coconuts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Girinagar police on Wednesday arrested a man for stealing tender coconuts kept on footpaths in and around the south division for the last three months.

The accused, Mohan, a native of Tamil Nadu, used to sell tender coconuts earlier and was addicted to online gambling. He incurred huge losses and started stealing coconuts from other vendors to repay the loan.

The accused had stolen 150 tender coconuts belonging to Rajanna a few days ago. Based on a complaint, the Girinagar police zeroed in on the accused.The police recovered tender coconuts along with the car and a bike, totally worth ₹8 lakh from him.

Rain: Flooding affects traffic in many areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Just when the people of Bengaluru started to complain about the scorching heat, the city received light to moderate rain on Wednesday. The rainfall is expected to continue for a day or two and eventually subside, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Advisories issued

The sudden afternoon rain led many unprepared school and college students to seek shelter on the roads. It also caused flooding in several areas, forcing the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) to issue advisories throughout the evening.

Traffic movement was affected in areas around Iblur, Hebbal, Sanjayanagar, Kalyan Nagar, HBR Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Electronics City.

"An upper air cyclonic circulation which had formed in the interior Tamil Nadu and some parts of Kerala, 3.1 km above mean sea level resulted in these showers. While Bengaluru will see some rainfall even on Thursday, we have given a yellow alert to some places in the districts of Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga where heavy rain is expected," said A. Prasad, scientist, IMD Bengaluru.

Singasandra, Arakere, Bommanahalli, and Kengeri are among the places that received rainfall in Bengaluru on Wednesday, according to the data provided by Varuna Mitra of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

Man booked for blackmail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The West Division police registered a case against a man for allegedly blackmailing a woman after meeting her on a matrimonial site.

Talluri Aravind Choudhary and the woman started chatting after the accused proposed to marry her. He recorded the private photos and videos of the woman after accessing her social media account and started to blackmail her, said the police.

The police registered an FIR against Choudhary charging him under blackmail, extortion.

Photographer gets 20 years' imprisonment in POCSO case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Fast Track Court-II on Tuesday convicted a 27-year-old photographer in a POCSO case and sentenced him to undergo 20 years of imprisonment and pay a fine of ₹10,000.

The accused, Siddaraju, allegedly lured his 17-year-old neighbour and eloped with her in November 2019 and sexually assaulted her on the pretext of marriage in November 2019.

Initially, the police registered a missing case and while searching for her, the victim returned home and narrated the ordeal.

Based on the complaint, the Rajagopalnagar police registered a case under the POCSO Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and tracked down the accused and arrested him.

Inspector Dinesh Patil filed a chargesheet against the accused and Public Prosecutor A.V. Madhu presented the case. The court also directed the district legal service authority to pay compensation of ₹4 lakh to the victim.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No. SWRTMYPRWT20232405
Dated : 17-11-2023.
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Refurbishing the Camp Coaches for Track Machines.	Rs. 6,11,58,696/-

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PUB/506/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Bengaluru
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr. PHILIP.R S/o. Mr. Ravindra Chandra Sekar** and **MR. MERVYN.S S/o. Mr. Stanley Sampath Kumar P** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **LT.COL (Dr) SATISH S/o. K.P. Sethumadhavan;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential Property bearing **Site No.3,** Portion of Present BBMP Katha Sl. No. 3053, formed in Converted Sy.No.5, Having converted from agriculture to non-agriculture residential purpose Vide Conversion Order No: B.DIS.ALN.SR(SA)139/2001-02, Dated: 03-09-2001 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, House List Katha No.763, Situated at : **K. Narayanapura Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, Measuring East to West: 40 Ft and North to out : 35 Ft, in all totally Measuring**1400 Sq ft** and bounded on the:- **East by : Site No.2; West by : Site No.4; North by : Road, South by : Private Property.**
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-TENDER NOTICE No.: SNTPBBS-072023-IDS
DESCRIPTION : "PROVISION OF INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM (IDS) FOR DETECTION OF ELEPHANT MOVEMENTS WITH TRACKING AND LEVEL CROSSING ALERTS IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS : BYREE - KAPILAS ROAD- SALEGAON, CHARBATIA-GURUDIJHATIA - MACHAPUR-RAJ ATHAGARH - JORANDA ROAD, SADASHIBAPUR - HINDOL ROAD, BUDHAPANK - TALCHER ROAD, RAMBHA - HUMMA - GANJAM, BASANTAPUR - SITABINJI, GOALDIH - PORJANPUR - NAYAGARH TOWN OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION & MANESWAR - BAMUR, TUREKELA ROAD - LAKHNA, ARAND - ARANG MAHANADI, NORLA ROAD - THERUBALI & BALANGIR - DEOGAON ROAD SECTION OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approximate Advertised Value (₹): 72,65,96,689.20, EMD (₹): 37,83,000/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1530 Hrs. of 15.12.2023.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: http://www.ireps.gov.in.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.
Assistant Signal & Telecommunication Engg./P-I, Bhubaneswar
PR-90/CG/23-24

Government of Karnataka
Department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysore.
No.DAMH/CW:EOI:T-5:2023-24 Date: 04.11.2023
NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Ordinance 1999-2000, the Department of Archaeology, Museums, and Heritage, Mysuru, has invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) under the Adopt a Monument Scheme from interested organizations or agencies that have demonstrated similar initiatives or interest in the conservation and development of tourist amenities for a total of 143 monuments, preferably under CSR initiatives. The EoI includes: 1) a letter of invitation; 2) information for the application; and 3) a proposal (standard forms). 4) Terms of Reference Documents: interested applicants may submit their proposals through the e-procurement platform of the Government of Karnataka at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Indent No.: DAMH/2023-24/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_4, 88 to 111, 113 to 119, 121 to 231). The following is the calendar of events for this EoI. Date of issue of EoI: **04.11.2023** Tender documents are available on e-portal from Date: **06.11.2023** Date of Consultation on Submission of Application Date: **24.11.2023, Time 11.00 hrs.** Last date for clarification regarding Expression of Interest Date: **23.11.2023, Time 17.00 hrs.** Duration of Tender- 180 Days Date: **31.05.2024, Time 17.00 hrs.** Last date for submission of application Date: **06.12.2023, Time 16.00 hrs**
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/652/2023-24 Sd/- Commissioner

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/ C/ DRIP	05	1
2	SE/Hydro	HE 2476	1

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/6202/Tender/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that 25,54,900 equity shares and 29,91,453 cumulative compulsorily convertible preference shares (collectively referred to as "Shares") of Atlas Logistics Pvt. Ltd. (CIN: U63090KA1999PTC025375) originally issued to Transpole Logistics Holdings Company Ltd.stand transmitted to SBS Logistics Singapore Pte. Ltd. Consequently, SBS Logistics Singapore Pte. Ltd. will not be bound by any transaction with respect to the Shares to which it has not expressly consented.
GENTA FUJIMAKI
Authorized Signatory
SBS Logistics Singapore Pte. Ltd.
Place: Bangalore Date: 23rd November 2023

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative Department (Co-Operative Division)
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES JHARKHAND, RANCHI INTEGRATED CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (I.C.D.P.) CELL, RANCHI)
Very Short e-procurement Notice
Tender Reference No:- ICDP/RANCHI/05/RE-1/2023-24
DATE- 22.11.2023

01.	Name of work	Setting up of Head Office of Sidhu-Kanhu Agriculture Forest Produce Co-operative federation ltd, kanke Road, Ranchi.
02.	Estimated Value of work (IN Rs)	1,91,91,000.00
03.	Earnest Money (IN Rs)	3,83,900.00
04.	B.O.Q. Cost (IN Rs)	10,000.00
05.	Time of Completion	06 Months
06.	Date Of Publication of on Website	04.12.2023 AT 11:00 AM
07.	Last Date & Time of Submission of bids	12.12.2023 Up to 05:00 PM
08.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	State Monitoring Officer ICDP Cell, Ranchi, Pasupalan-Sahkarita Bhawan Singh More Hatia, Ranchi. 834003
09.	Contact No of Procurement Officer	7979760612, 7250895727

02. Bid document with details terms and conditions will be available online on e-tendering portal, http:// Jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 04.12.2023 at 11:00 AM to 12.12.2023 up to 05:00 PM. Bids must be Submitted online only at the e- tendering portal http:// Jharkhandtender .gov.in on or before 05:00 PM on 12.12.2023. Hard Copy of Earnest Money, Cost of BOQ and Affidavit must be submitted in the office of undersigned on or before 02:00 PM on 13.12.2023. Technical Bid received online will be opened at 02:00 PM on 14.12.2023.
03. Estimate Cost May Vary.
04.Corrigendum/Amendment if any will be published only on the above mentioned website.
Sd/-
State monitoring Officer
ICDP Cell, Ranchi
PR.NO.311744 Co-opretive(23-24):D

‘Lower oxygen at high altitudes increases lifespan in ageing mice’

Researchers have said that theirs is the first effort to demonstrate that oxygen restriction can extend lifespan in an ageing mammal. Previous reports on oxygen restriction lengthening lifespan have come from mammalian cells grown in Petri dishes, yeast, and in less complex lab animals

Sneha Khedkar

Representative image of a pressurised oxygen cylinder. SAMUEL RAMOS/UNSPLASH

In addition to its tranquil quality and a sense of peace, the fresh, crisp, pollutant-free mountain air could help some animals live longer.

Specifically, the lower oxygen content at high altitudes increases lifespan significantly in ageing mice, according to a study published in *PLOS Biology* on May 23, 2023.

Why study hypoxia?

The researchers have noted that theirs is the first study to demonstrate that oxygen restriction, or continuous hypoxia, can extend lifespan in an ageing mammal. Previous reports on oxygen restriction lengthening lifespan have come from mammalian cells grown in Petri dishes, yeast, and in less complex lab animals such as roundworms and fruit flies.

This line of research has been encouraged at least in part, by the naked mole rat: a rodent that spends most of its life in an oxygen-deficient burrow with a lifespan much longer than scientists have been able to predict based on its size or evolutionary history.

“Because of several observations about the effects of hypoxia in other organisms, we were motivated to assess the effect of chronic continuous hypoxia in a mammalian ageing model,” Vamsi Mootha, a researcher at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Maryland, and professor at Harvard Medical School, whose team made the discovery, told *The Hindu*.

What was the study design?

For its experiments, the team worked with a strain of mutant mice that age prematurely and have a shorter lifespan, of fewer than six months. “Wild type mice (without the mutations causing a shortened lifespan) can live over three years, which would have been a very long first experiment to assess survival, so we chose a mouse model of accelerated ageing,” said Dr. Mootha.

The strains they used “also responds powerfully to the best-known intervention to extend lifespan across organisms - caloric restriction.” Caloric restriction, or dietary restriction without malnutrition, first described in 1935, is the gold-standard for increasing lifespan in diverse species like yeast, roundworms, fruit flies, mice, and rats.

To test the effect of low oxygen level on these mice, the researchers housed them in hypoxic chambers with an oxygen concentration of 11%, similar to that at the base camp of Mt. Everest. They achieved hypoxic conditions by diluting the air with nitrogen.

The median lifespan of mice living with normal oxygen - at 21% of the atmosphere, a.k.a. normoxia - was about 16 weeks. But mice living in hypoxic conditions had a median lifespan of 24 weeks, or 50% longer.

“We were pleasantly surprised by the results,” Dr. Mootha said. “We have long been excited by the possibility that hypoxia could be beneficial in an ageing model and wanted to rigorously test this hypothesis, but we had no assumptions that it would actually have a significant effect.”

The animals housed in hypoxic conditions also displayed better neurologic function than their counterparts living in normoxic conditions. Sixteen-week-old mice living in normoxia had neurologic debility, measured by a motor performance test, while mice maintained in hypoxic conditions performed the test significantly better.

How does hypoxia work?

Next, the researchers tried to understand how hypoxia affected the body, leading to longer lifespan, but with little success. They examined whether hypoxia prompted the mice to restrict their diets. But they found that the hypoxic mice ate slightly more food than those living in normoxia, ruling out dietary restriction as the fundamental underlying mechanism.

Looking for differently expressed genes, DNA damage repair, and changes in signalling pathways didn’t provide any definitive clues either.

“There are many open questions at this point,” Dr. Mootha said. “At present we don’t know the mechanism by which hypoxia extends lifespan in these mice and it remains to be seen whether these findings would generalise to wildtype mice with a three-year lifespan. Much more research is required here.”

Is the study significant?

“This paper is one in a fabulous series of interesting papers from the Mootha lab,” Arvind Ramanathan, associate professor at Bengaluru’s Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine, whose work includes metabolic regulation of tissues during mammalian ageing, told *The Hindu*. “The mechanism by which hypoxia leads to increased lifespan is unclear.”

> Animals in hypoxic conditions displayed better neurologic function than counterparts in normoxic conditions. Sixteen-week-old mice in normoxia had neurologic debility

Parminder Singh, a researcher of ageing at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging, California, said, “The study provides valuable insights into the potential of hypoxia to enhance healthy lifespan. The findings open up new avenues for exploring the mechanisms underlying hypoxia’s impact on lifespan and hold promise for potential interventions in the future.”

But he, like Dr. Ramanathan, said more research is required.

“Ageing is a highly complex phenomenon, involving numerous molecular mediators,” Dr. Ramanathan said. Hypoxia may not target many aspects of ageing since it doesn’t affect the expression of a gene (p21) that’s an important marker of ageing, he added. “Moving to areas with lesser oxygen is quite premature and may even be unwise under certain underlying disease contexts.”

Do the findings apply to humans?

Dr. Singh agreed: “Caution should be exercised in directly translating these findings to human populations, as more work is required to establish their applicability and to address limitations, including variations in species, environmental conditions, and broader health outcomes.”

“It’s very premature to extrapolate our findings to humans or to make any recommendations for human health based on our current findings,” Dr. Mootha also said. “To my knowledge, there is no evidence that people living at high altitude have a longer maximal lifespan, but there are some clues that median lifespan might be increased at higher altitude, and the most interesting epidemiological clue about the human health effects of living at altitude is actually provided by modern Indian history.”

He was referring to a study published in 1977, in which physicians of the Indian Army compared the health outcomes of 1.3 lakh soldiers stationed on plains and their 20,000 comrades stationed at 3,700-5,600 metres above sea level, over three years. They found that the incidence of common age-related disorders like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease was lower among soldiers at the high altitudes than those at sea level.

Dr. Mootha said a lot more work is required to understand the effect of hypoxia on ageing in people and the molecular mechanisms through which it might be beneficial. “We view this initial report as laying the foundation for this important line of future research.”

(Sneha Khedkar is a biologist-turned freelance science journalist based out of Bengaluru.)

One of the biggest causes of climate change is methane emissions, mostly from the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors. AP

CoP28 turns attention to potent methane emissions

Agence France Presse

Climate talks often revolve around reducing the most dangerous greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO_2).

But other powerful heat-trapping emissions, namely methane, are also likely to be in the crosshairs of negotiators at the crucial CoP28 meeting in Dubai next week.

Potent but relatively short-lived methane is a key target for countries wanting to slash emissions quickly and slow climate change.

That is particularly because large amounts of methane are simply leaking into the atmosphere from fossil fuel infrastructure.

Atmospheric methane (CH_4) occurs abundantly in nature as the primary component of natural gas.

It is the second largest contributor to climate change, accounting for around 16% of the warming effect.

Methane remains in the atmosphere for only about 10 years, but has a much more powerful warming impact than CO_2.

Its warming effect is 28-times greater than CO_2 over a 100-year timescale.

Exactly how much methane is released in the atmosphere remains subject to “significant uncertainty”, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), despite progress in the monitoring of emissions through the use of satellites.

Scientists are also puzzling over a steady increase of methane in the atmosphere, with concentrations currently over two-and-a-half times greater than pre-industrial levels.

Around 60% of methane emissions are linked to human activity, the IEA says,

> **Methane remains in the atmosphere for only 10 years, but has a much more powerful warming impact than CO_2. Its effect is 28-times greater than CO_2 over a 100-year timescale**

while most of the remainder is from wetlands.

Agriculture is the biggest culprit, responsible for roughly a quarter of emissions. Most of that is from livestock (cows and sheep release methane during digestion and in their manure) and rice cultivation, where flooded fields create ideal conditions for methane-emitting bacteria.

The energy sector - coal, oil, and gas - is the second largest source of human caused methane emissions. Methane leaks from energy infrastructure, such as gas pipelines, and from deliberate releases during maintenance.

Discarded household waste also releases large quantities of methane when it decomposes, if left to rot in landfills.

A recent IEA report estimates that rapid cuts in methane emissions linked to the fossil fuel sector could prevent up to 0.1 degrees Celsius of warming by mid-century.

That might sound like a modest reduction, but such a reduction would have an impact greater than “immediately taking all cars and trucks in the world off the road,” the report’s authors said.

It could be achieved by repairing leaky infrastructure and eliminating routine flaring and venting during maintenance.

In agriculture, it’s possible to modify animal diets by, for example, adding a compound to improve their health.

For rice fields, changes to water management are the “most promising” way to reduce emissions, according to a FAO report.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Water, water everywhere...

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Water is one of the two official names for the compound H_2O. The other name comes from a more systematic naming scheme used by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. In this scheme, NH_3 is called azane. What is the name of H_2O?

QUESTION 2

Name the mineral that scientists have used, because it weathers slowly, to reveal water’s history on the earth’s surface. For example, one 2001 study examined deposits of this mineral in the Yilgarn Craton in Western Australia and concluded that the planet has had liquid water for around 4.4 billion years.

QUESTION 3

Water undergoes five phase transitions in different conditions: condensation, deposition, freezing, melting, X, and vaporisation. X is used in freeze-drying: when a product is frozen to crystallise its water into ice, and the air pressure is suddenly lowered and a little heat is applied to cause the ice to undergo X. Name X.

QUESTION 4

Large bodies of water look blue. This is because, when light interacts with water molecules, they absorb the energy and start to _____. The molecules have a preference for energy corresponding to the redder part of light, leaving the bluer part to pass through. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Name the valleys in Antarctica that are said to be one of the driest places on the earth. They aren’t covered in ice and, by some estimates, haven’t received any rain in 2 million years.

Answers to November 21 quiz:

1. Chemist who coined the word ‘plastic’ to refer to this material – **Ans: Leo Baekeland**
2. Most commonly produced plastic variety – **Ans: Polyethylene**
3. Second-most commonly produced plastic variety – **Ans: Polypropylene**
4. Third-most commonly produced plastic variety – **Ans: Polyvinyl chloride**
5. Country that releases second-most amount of plastic into oceans – **Ans: Indonesia**

Visual: **Thermocol**

Visual: This moon of Jupiter has the smoothest surface of any body in the solar system, prompting scientists to wonder if it’s a shell containing a liquid water ocean. Name the moon. NASA

For feedback and suggestions for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’

Electrocution case: Ashok demands George's resignation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

R. Ashok

Newly-appointed Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok on Wednesday fired his first salvo at the Congress government by demanding that Energy Minister K. J. George resign owning up moral responsibility for the electrocution of a woman and her baby in Bengaluru due to the fault of power utility.

In a statement here, Mr. Ashok termed the Minister's reported claims that rats biting the power cable could be the reason for electrocution as heights of contemptible attitude.

Accusing Mr. George of trying to escape from moral responsibility and behaving in an insensitive manner, he maintained that *prima facie* the failure to properly maintain the network appeared to be responsible for the tragic episode.

Taking exception to the Minister referring to rat-bite even before the four different investigations that have been ordered into the episode completed their task, he suspected that such a statement could have been made to bring pressure on the probing agencies to toe his line of thinking.

Mr. Ashok urged the Chief Minister to break his silence on the episode and demanded that he should intervene immediately to sack the Minister. He also demanded that a high-level probe be ordered in the case.

Alleging that the electrocution episode had turned out to be a black spot for Brand Bengaluru, Mr. Ashok maintained that it was not possible for the probe to be conducted in an impartial manner if Mr. George continued as Minister.

Mr. Ashok said the BJP would take up a struggle inside the Legislative Houses at the legislature session in Belagavi demanding the resignation of Mr. George and payment of ₹25 lakh to the victims' family.

Leopard sighted near Soladevanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A leopard was reportedly spotted by a few villagers near Soladevanahalli on Tuesday night.

Forest Department officials said a leopard may have strayed from the nearby Basavanatara Reserve Forest and few villagers may have spotted it. However, there was no sign of the big cat on Wednesday nor was it captured on CCTV, forest officials said. "The spot where the leopard was reportedly spotted was only about 500 metres from the forest area. It is natural for them to stray out of the forest area," an official said.

Officials are keeping a close vigil as the sighting of the leopard comes almost a month after an elusive leopard, which was wandering in AECS Layout and Kudlu Gate near Singasandra area, was shot dead by forest officials during its capture. Following this incident, another leopard was reportedly sighted in Chikkathoguru, off NICE Road.

Raman Research Institute faculty to receive grant worth $8 mn from Canada

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urbasi Sinha

Professor Urbasi Sinha from the Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) laboratory at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) has been appointed as the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies.

Over a period of eight years, Ms. Sinha will receive a grant worth $8 million opening up possibilities for international interactions at various levels in academia, industry, and other relevant sectors, developing lab-to-market innovative models - all important steps towards a future ecosystem based on quantum technologies.

She is among 34 global scientists whose selection for the latest CERC was announced recently.

It is for the first time that a scientist based in India has bagged this top recognition awarded by the Government of Canada. CERC is offered to leading scientists engaged in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"I have always believed that science is global and that it is through international as well as national alliances and collaborations we can achieve more than what we would do working in silos. The CERC gives me an opportunity to put these words to action. Not only does it allow me to expand our activities to a different country and environment, it also provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute towards quantum ecosystem development in India and Canada in parallel," said Ms. Sinha.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Health camps in first week of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

1,232 The Union Health Ministry informed that health camps were conducted in 203 gram panchayats under the initiative, recording a footfall of more than 1.66 lakh. PTI

The penalty slapped on Air India by the DGCA

10 in ₹ lakh. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed the penalty on Air India for its failure to comply with norms on facilities that are required to be provided to passengers. PTI

Delhi residents reluctant to fit diesel generators with CNG

85 in percentage. Delhi residents with generators running on diesel are unwilling to retrofit them with CNG, as per a LocalCircles survey. Resistance persists against the directive to ban diesel generators. PTI

Decrease in U.S. unemployment claims this week

2.09 In lakh. The Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell sharply by 24,000 last week, a sign that the U.S. job market remains resilient despite higher interest rates. AP

The number of farm fires reported in Punjab on Wednesday

512 The total number of farm fires recorded in Punjab since September 15 rose to 36,118. Sangrur is leading with maximum stubble burning cases. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Haryana's employment reservation law

What does the reservation law entail? How was it challenged in Court and what was the justification of the State government? Has a similar law been implemented in Andhra Pradesh as well? Why did the High Court rule it as unconstitutional?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on November 17 quashed a law enacted by the Haryana government in 2021 that guaranteed 75% reservation to locals in private sector jobs in Haryana. A division bench of Justices G. S. Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan ruled that the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, was unconstitutional and violated fundamental rights.

What does the reservation law say?

In November 2020, the Haryana Assembly passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill which made it mandatory for employers in the State to reserve 75% of jobs paying a monthly salary of less than ₹30,000 (originally ₹50,000) for local residents of the State. The Bill received the Governor's assent on March 2, 2021, and came into effect in January last year. The law is applicable to all private entities in the State including companies, trusts, societies, partnerships, and limited liability partnerships. It also covers any person employing 10 or more persons for the purpose of manufacturing or providing any service.

A 'local candidate' has been defined under the law as anyone domiciled in Haryana for the past five years. Such candidates will have to mandatorily register themselves on a designated portal in order to avail benefits and employers have to make recruitments only through this portal. Companies can seek an exemption if they do not find local candidates of a desired skill or qualification, but this claim can be rejected by government officials if they doubt its legitimacy. Employers found to be violating the Act are liable to a fine between ₹10,000 and ₹2 lakh.

Hard at work: A labourer at work in Gurugram, Haryana. PTI

Why was the law challenged?

Several industry associations challenged the validity of the law on the ground that it violates Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom, including to reside and settle in any part of the Indian territory and practise any profession, business or trade. They also contended that the law was an infringement of Article 14 (equality before the law) and Article 15, which prohibits discrimination on various grounds such as religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. The court was also apprised that the reservation creates a wedge between persons domiciled in different States and is contrary to the concept of common citizenship envisaged in the Constitution.

How has the State defended it?

The State government contended that the law intends to 'protect the right to livelihood of people domiciled in the State', and that the enactment was rooted in the rising unemployment in Haryana. It was also asserted that the government is empowered to create such reservations under Article 16(4) of the Constitution, which stipulates that the right to equality in public employment does not prevent the State from 'making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State'.

Have other States enacted such laws?

States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have enacted laws providing reservations for their local residents in the private sector. In November 2019, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries/Factories Bill, 2019, reserving three-fourths of jobs for local candidates within three years of the commencement of the Act. The law was subsequently challenged in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which opined that 'it may be unconstitutional'. However, the challenge is yet to be heard on its merits.

Has the Supreme Court intervened?

On February 3, 2022, the High Court passed an interim order staying the law following which a division Bench of the Supreme Court bench set it aside on the ground that the High Court had not provided 'sufficient reasons' for putting the law on hold. The High Court was ordered to expeditiously decide the petition and the Haryana government was also directed to not take any coercive steps against companies for non-compliance until the matter is finally decided upon.

Why did the High Court quash it?

The court ruled that the law was unconstitutional to the extent that 'a person's right to carry on occupation, trade, or business' under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution was being impaired. It also highlighted that the law discriminates against individuals who do not belong to a certain State by 'putting up artificial walls throughout the country'. Placing reliance on Article 35 of the Constitution, the court outlined that the provision bars the State legislature from legislating on matters that fall within the purview of Article 16(3) of the Constitution (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment) since only the Parliament can pass laws on such subjects. Referring to Section 6 of the Act which requires employers to submit quarterly reports with details of local candidates employed and Section 8, under which officers could call for documents to ensure the law was being implemented, the court said that these restrictions amounted to 'Inspector Raj' that furthered State control over private employers.

THE GIST

- In November 2020, the Haryana Assembly passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill which made it mandatory for employers in the State to reserve 75% of jobs paying a monthly salary of less than ₹30,000 for local residents of the State.
- States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have enacted laws providing reservations for their local residents in the private sector.
- The court ruled that the law was unconstitutional to the extent that 'a person's right to carry on occupation, trade, or business' under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution was being impaired.

What is the ruling against the U.K.'s Rwanda deal?

What is the Migration and Economic Development Partnership? Is Rwanda safe for asylum seekers?

Padmashree Anandhan

The story so far:

The government policy of the U.K., of creating a mechanism for the transfer of asylum seekers not considered by the U.K. to Rwanda, has been ruled as unlawful by the U.K. Supreme Court.

What is the Rwanda deal?

The Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) was announced in April 2022 by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The objective of the deal is to "create a mechanism" for the transfer of asylum seekers not considered by the UK into Rwanda. The inadmissibility clause of the UK's asylum system plays a key role in categorising people who enter the U.K. through "irregular journeys" such as the English Channel. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two nations, the U.K. will screen asylum seeker applications and arrange for safe transport to Rwanda. On arrival of the refugees, Rwanda is obliged to provide accommodation for every individual and protect them from ill-treatment and refoulement. Rwanda will be the sole authority to recognise or not recognise the refugee status of an individual. If an individual is not recognised, they will be moved to their country of origin.

Why did the U.K. choose Rwanda?

Rwanda offers three solutions for those sent out by the U.K.. It facilitates returning them to their country of origin; helps in moving them to a third country; or helps them settle in Rwanda with decent housing, access to universal health insurance and the right to work. The U.K. will bear the accommodation and transit costs. Rwanda was not the first country to be approached. Former Prime Minister Tony Blair attempted to persuade Tanzania for asylum claims but failed. Britain's colonial history aligns with the current scenario where it used to move particular sections of migrant labour to certain territories. The U.K. has, in the past, moved refugees to colonised countries under the guise of development and economic growth. The MEDP arrangement resonates with this colonial scheme of dispersing refugees.

Why was it ruled unlawful?

The ruling was based on two major issues. One, the Court of Appeal's entitlement to intervene in the High Court's ruling, and two, if the Court of Appeal had looked into the real risk for asylum seekers when moved to Rwanda. On the first, the Supreme Court found the High Court decision to be "erred," due to its failure to consider the evidence of the risk of refoulement. Under the European Court, it is the U.K.s responsibility as a removing state to protect the refugee from refoulement and ensure asylum. Instead, the High Court recognised the expertise and promise of Rwanda.

Second, the Supreme Court found evidence that asylum seekers face a real risk of ill-treatment from refoulement. Rwanda's track record on human rights and its non-compliance with assurances were taken as instances for considering the real risk of refoulement. While Rwanda has become a key partner of the U.K., the court highlighted the periods of violence in Rwanda since 1994 and how its human rights record was viewed as critical for the ruling.

Why are domestic responses mixed?

The reason behind different perceptions is the uncertainty over the legality of the arrangement and treatment of the refugees in Rwanda.

According to civil society organisations, double voluntarism from the U.K. and Rwanda to create a safe transit or guaranteeing rights is impossible. The UNHCR clearly states that once a refugee enters a territory via land or sea it becomes the responsibility of the respective country to ensure the safety of the refugee. In this case, the U.K. cannot be relieved from this duty even after the transfer of the refugee to Rwanda. While the U.K. government argues over simultaneous investment in refugees and Rwanda's economy for development, the doubts over refoulement and the implications to other EU countries do not seem to end. This might trigger other EU nations to consider such deportation schemes leading to a decline in humanitarian standards and creating risks for refugees in third-party countries.

The writer is a Research Associate at the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

THE GIST

- The government policy of the U.K., of creating a mechanism for the transfer of asylum seekers not considered by the U.K. to Rwanda, has been ruled as unlawful by the U.K. Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court found evidence that asylum seekers face a real risk of ill-treatment from refoulement.
- Britain's colonial history aligns with the current scenario where it used to move particular sections of migrant labour to certain territories

Bengaluru Kambala to make its debut on November 25 and 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first Bengaluru Kambala will be held at Palace Grounds on November 25 and 26, announced the Kambala samiti on Wednesday.

The samiti has involved close to a hundred Kambala organisations and will be hosting 228 pairs of buffaloes from several regions of Karnataka, especially Coastal Karnataka region. As many as 200 pairs of buffaloes are said to participate in the race.

The first set of buffaloes that arrived to participate in Bengaluru Kambala at Palace Grounds on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The samiti will set up a food court with close to 200 stalls showcasing food from the coastal Karnataka region, alongside cultural programmes celebrating Karavali culture. According to the organisers, the goal is to bring the culture of Kambala to Bengaluru.

K. Prakash Shetty, Bengaluru Kambala Samiti president, said Kambala is a folk sport and a cultural celebration and expressed excitement to be fulfilling this dream of organising such an event. Around six lakh people are expected to attend the event, he said.

Ashok Kumar Rai, president of the State Kambala Samiti, said: "Kambala has a 700-year-old history. People of all backgrounds and castes participate in it. Kambala is not a commercial race; it happens for honour and prestige. That is why the event is open to all and completely free." "Precautions and measures have been taken in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Vets are available on call and the buffaloes are taken care of," he added.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Ministers, MPs, and MLAs as well as actors Anushka Shetty, Sudeep, Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, Priyanka Upendra, and Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar are expected to attend.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/T-64/23-24/5442-45 Dt: 21.11.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP MODE ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender for the following works:

(1) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent316.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/37 Dtd. 20.11.2023** for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at **110/11kVSirwara Sub-station** in Sirwara Taluk in Raichur District including supply of equipments / materials, erection (including civil works), testing and commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(2) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SS/ Work_Indent318.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/38 Dtd. 20.11.2023_Call-2** for "Construction of 33KV line for a distance of 4Kms from 33KV line nearest to **400KV Ballari Pooling Station, Kudathini** along with Construction of Terminal bay and providing 500KVA 33/11KV transformer at 400KV Ballari Pooling Station, Kudathini in Bellary Taluk & District" including supply of equipments/ Materials, Erection (including civil works), testing and commissioning on TTK Basis".

(3) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent319,*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/39 Dtd. 20.11.2023** for "Enhancement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with additional switchgear at **110/33/11kV Kavithal Sub-station** in Manvi Taluk and Raichur District including supply of equipments / materials, erection (including civil works), testing and commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(4) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent322,*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/40 Dtd. 20.11.2023** for Providing additional 1x10MVA,110/11kV Transformer at **110/11kV Gabbur Sub-station** in Deodurga Taluk in Raichur District including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

(5) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent-158.*** **Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/12 Dtd:17.10.2023_Call-6** for "**Enhancement of 1X10 MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20 MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV Yapaladinni Sub-station** in Raichur Taluk and District. Including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major material Power Transformer and 11KV Switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(6) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023/24/ SS/Work_Indent-159.*** **Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/13 Dtd:17.10.2023_Call-2** for "Enhancement of 1x8MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at **66KV MUSS Kottur** in Kottur Taluk, Vijayanagara District pertaining to 220KV R/S Ittigi, KPTCL including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

(7) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023/24/Ind0027.*** **Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/44 Dtd:21.11.2023_Call-2** for "Design, Manufacture and supply of emergency **Spare 220KV and 110KV Towers** in case of any collapsed condition due to natural calamities like cyclone, wind, Earth quake etc., in **TLM Section Ballari**, in TLM Sub Division coming under TL & SS Division Munirabad)".

(8) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023/24/ SS/Work_Indent-325.*** **Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/42 Dtd:21.11.2023_Call-2** for "installation of 01 no of 11KV PCVCB Switchgear and supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 12.1KV, 2.9MVAR **Capacitor Banks** at **66/11KV MUSS at Venkatapura** coming under TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(9) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023/24/ SS/Work_Indent-324.*** **Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/41 Dtd:21.11.2023_Call-3** "for supply of **Nitrogen Injection Fire Protection System(NIFPS)** including Erection and Civil works required for various Sub-Stations comes under Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(10) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0311.*** **Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/43 Dtd:21.11.2023_Call-4** for "Providing Man Power Service of One(1) of **Driver** to the vehicle of AEE, HOT-LINE SUB-DIVISION, KPTCL, MUNIRABAD (TEMPO-TRAVELLER)" by an external agency under the jurisdiction of Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL Munirabad".

(11) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0301.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/45 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **66kV S/S Kamalapura** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(12) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0302.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/46 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Mylara** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(13) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0303.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/47 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **66kV S/S Kogali** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(14) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0304.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/48 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **66kV S/S Magala** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(15) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0305.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/49 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Halakundi** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(16) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0306.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/50 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Betagera** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(17) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0307.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/51 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Turvihal** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(18) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0308.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/52 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Bayyapura** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(19) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0309.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/53 Dtd. 21.11.2023** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Vadavatti** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(20) Tender No: ***KPTCL/2023-24/SE0310.*** **Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-2/2023-24/54 Dtd. 21.11.2023.** for "Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works located at **110kV S/S Google** in Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in/** on hyperlink **"EProcurementKPTCL" or directly logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **Dtd:24.11.2023at 11:00Hrs** details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele., Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad, Ph: 08539-270094

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ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation

File No. HO/CIVIL/EST/E- 5009/01/2023 36809 Dt.18.11.2023

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Bid Identification No. Civil/EST-34 / 2023-24

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : DEVELOPMENT OF ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (OUTR) CAMPUS AT BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.920.08 Crore (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 27 (Twenty Seven) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding
   - I. Start Date : 5:00 PM on 28.11.2023
   - II. End Date : 5:00 PM on 28.12.2023
   - III. Opening date : 11:30 AM on 29.12.2023
5. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 11.30 AM on 12.12.2023

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen **in e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

CAD-2950: Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar OIPR-14003/11/0278/2324

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751

Government of Odisha

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK

('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)28/2023-24

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 06 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Building Work.
4. Class of contractor : 'A' & Special Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid document in the web site : From 24.11.2023 to 17.30 Hours of 08.12.2023
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 11.12.2023 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

B-1310 : Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle OIPR-34012/11/0042/2324

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Works in Odisha

Bid Identification No. Bridge Online AGL-28/2023-24

No. 2894 // Dt. 20.11.2023 //

1. Name of the Work : Bridge Works
2. Total No. of Work : 03 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.187.97 Lakhs to Rs.242.39 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Bridge Online -AGL-28/2023-24	30.11.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	14.12.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	12.12.2023 up to 1.00 P.M.	15.12.2023 at 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

(1) For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

O-1566: Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul. OIPR-25180/11/0037/2324

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GARIBLAL Yadav Father of Jc-414200P SUB Binay Kumar Resident of Vill-Pipra, PO-Bhelwa, District-Saharsa, Bihar-852126, Have changed my Name From Gariblal Yadav to Gariv Lal Yadav vide Affidavit Dated 13 November 2023 Before Notary Leela Bangalore-560053

I, GEETHA Palat Haridasan, W/o. Shyam Sunder Nair, r/at No.204, Saideep, 2nd Floor, Himagiri Enclave II, Thimmareddy Layout, CV Raman Nagar, Kaggadasapura, Bangalore-560093 have changed my name as Geetha Shyam, vide affidavit dtd 22.11.2023 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, Bluru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOINUDDIN Mohammed Ameer S/o. Mohammed Ameer, r/at No.283/A, 7th Cross, Anwar Layout, DJ Halli, AC Post, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name as Mohammed Moinuddin vide affidavit dtd 12.11.2023 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-57)
O.S. No. 2577/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff

And :
Mr. M. Karthiban
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. M. Karthiban
S/o. Mani D
Aged About 40 Years
R/at No. 133, 3rd Cross, Milk Colony, Mallashwaram, Near Milk Colony Play Ground, Bangalore- 560055.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.12,60,254.44/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-57), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **19.12.2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **15th** day of **November, 2023** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3 Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: B/TRD.2023-24/11
Dated : 16-11-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(I) Modification of OHE due to shifting of IOL's infront of stop signals in Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section. **(II)** Conversion of OHE from tramway to conventional at Bangarapet Rd 6, provision of isolator, SI, structure bonds, buried Rails in Saidapet - Santoshpur's, Droppers, Earth pits and Retrieving of masts etc., in the jurisdiction of Bangarapet & Kuppam **(III)** Upgradation / Improvement of TRD assets in Bengaluru Division on age cum condition basis.	Rs. 2,30,22,178.79

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11-12-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Traction Distribution, Bengaluru

PUB/505/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General public that my clients **Mr. Harish. T.R, S/o Ramakrishnaiah Thalanki, aged about 47 years, R/at # 284/16, Ground Floor, 15th Main Road, Near Nagasena School, Sadhashivnagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560 080** and **Mr. Manish Kumar S/o Jainendra Kumar, aged about 47 years, R/at # 192/1 2nd Cross R K Garden, Gauri Apartment New BEL Road, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560 054.** have negotiated and intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owner Mr. Niranjan Kumar, S/o Dr. K. Somashekar Naidu, aged about 48 years, R/at # 45, 4th Cross, 5th Main F-10, " Gurupreeth Residency " Vinayaka Layout, Boopasandra, Bangalore-560 094. If anybody, having claims, right, title, interest of any objections for this proposed purchase/sale, they may submit his/their representations /objections in writing along with documentary proof thereof by RPAD to the undersigned within **10 days** from date of publication of this notice. If no response/objections are received from anybody my clients will be at liberty to proceed to purchase the schedule property from the aforesaid owner. And no claims and objections whatsoever will be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **House Property bearing PID No. 100-680-3, Old Municipal No.3, formed in Survey No. 24/4, Khatha No.3, {Old N. 4A & 4B}, situated at Building known as "Niran Archade" New BEL Road, Chikkamaranahalli, Sanjay Nagar, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, (BBMP), Devasandra, Bangalore-560 094, measuring to an extent of East to West 24.384049 Meters or 80 Feet, North to South 44.196088 Meters or 145 Square Feet, totally measuring 1077.6748 Square Meters or 11600 Square Feet, consisting Stilt/Basement Floor measuring 278.709 Square meters or 3000 Square Feet of House, Ground Floor measuring 420.943493 Square Meters or 4531 Square Feet of House, First Floor, measuring 336.123054 Square Meters or 3618 of Square Feet of House, Second Floor measuring 336.123054 Square Meters or 3618 of Square Feet of House and Third Floor measuring 336.123054 Square Meters or 3618 of Square Feet of House with RCC Roofing, Ceramic Flooring, Windows and Doors, made by sal wood and bounded on:**

East by : Scientific Nursing Compound
West by : Road
North by : Property No.5
South by : Property No.2

RAJESH GOWDA, Advocate
2, 2nd Main, Behind LG Showroom Subhashnagar, Old Madras Road, Virgonagar -Post, Bangalore-49.
Mob: 9986400432, Date: 22-11-2023

LOST DOCUMENTS

Mr. R Devaraju S/o Rangadhamappa No. 372, Srivaru Nilaya, 6th Cross, 5th Main, GKW Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 058. Original Sale Deed dated 11-02-2008, Executed between Sellers Name : **Siddaiah, Smt. Siddamma** and Buyer Name: **Dinesh**, Site No.14A Servey Khatha No.14/2 at K G Lakkenahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, Document No. DSP 1-08089-2007-2008, CD No.DSPD19, 9 Pages Document, Registered Office at Madanayakanahalli, Lost on **21-11-2023 at GKW Layout Main Road**, Near Srirama Temple, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 058, The Lost report of the same has been lodged Vide Lost report No. 0816845/2023, Rajagopalanagar police station limits. **if found may kindly be returned to the above address or Contact Ph No. 9972206942**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public and to whomsoever it may concern that my client is intending to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from Mrs. Catherine Joseph, the present owner, who have represented that she has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within *fifteen (15)* days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

Schedule Property: All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Sy No.209 measuring 0-31 Guntas and Sy No.224 measuring 0-10 Guntas totally measuring 1-00 Acres 01 Guntas situated at Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and bounded on the;

East by : Land bearing Sy No.209 & 208 *West by* : Land belongs to Fr. Mathew Varkey &St. Bonaventure Franciscan Ashram
North by : Private Road
South by : Government Lake.

Adv.Abymoan J,
No.48, 1 st Cross, Dinnur Main Road
RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru – 560 032
Date : 23/11/2023

DISTRICT OFFICER
MINORITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Ramanagara, Phone : 080-2727 1104.

No. : DOM/Staff-01/Outsource.Tender/CR-10/23-24 Date : 22-11-2023

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender Notification for supply of **Manpower Service through Outsource Agency.** Interested Bidders can participate in E-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Approximate Amount put to Tender : Rs. 218.15 Lakh, 2) EMD Amount : Rs. 3,27,227/-, 3) Start Date for Submission of Tender Application : 23-11-2023, 4) Last Date to Submit : 04-12-2023 at 4.00 p.m.

Sd/- District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, Ramamagara District.

DIPR/Ramanagar/297/Manipal/2023-24

KARNATAKA STATE LAW UNIVERSITY

Navanagar, Hubballi-580025
Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC
Phone: 0836-2222472 Website : www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in
Fax : 0836-2223392 Email : kslu.registrar@gmail.com

No. KSLU/CDC/Affiliation Notification/2022-23/2022 Date: 21-11-2023

AFFILIATION NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi invites application for fresh, renewal, extension, permanent and renewal of permanent affiliation from the affiliated Law Colleges/Managements situated in the state of Karnataka for the academic year 2023-24, Under section 58 of Karnataka State Law University Act 2009, for 3year LL.B, 5year B.A., LL.B, 5year B.B.A.,LL.B, 5year B.Com., LL.B., 2 year LL.M Research centre, P. G. Diploma and Certificate Courses.

The application may be downloaded from KSLU website and are also available in the office of Registrar, KSLU, Navanagar, Hubballi-580025. On payment of **2,000/-** and for Certificate Courses Rs. **1,000/- For details see the KSLU's Website: www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in**

DATES FOR ISSUING AND RECEIVING THE APPLICATION:

Sl .No	Particulars	Date
1	Date of Issue of applications	21-11-2023
2	Last date to submit the application to the University (Without penal fees)	11-12-2023
3	Last date to submit the application with a Penalty of Rs.5,000/ (for each course)	16-12-2023

Note: (APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED)

DIPR/DWD/521/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL, BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for (1) No. KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT852/CALL-2, Dated: 18.11.2023 for **Providing facility for erection of coal lab equipment and analysers in Coal Bhavan at YTPS.** Approx. value of work: **Rs. 9,63,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 24,075/-.** (2) No. KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT853/CALL-2, Dated: 18.11.2023 for **Providing Water supply line for utilization of STP treated water for garden/plantation at YTPS Site.** Approx. value of work: **Rs. 1,15,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 2,875/-.** (3) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_ INDENT929, Dated 18.11.2023 for **Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of battery bank for Unit-1 & 2 BTG 160kVA UPS for 2x800MW YTPS, RPCL, Yeramarus. EMD: Rs. 1,44,000/-.** Last date & time for receipt of tender: **04.12.2023, 14.00 Hrs for Sl.No. 3.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(Civil), Mobile No.: 9480830567** for Sl.No. (1) & (2), **Executive Engineer (I&C)-1, Mobile No.: 9449598895** for Sl.No. (3), YTPS, RPCL, Yeramarus-584 134, Dist. Raichur, **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

A BG-BGE

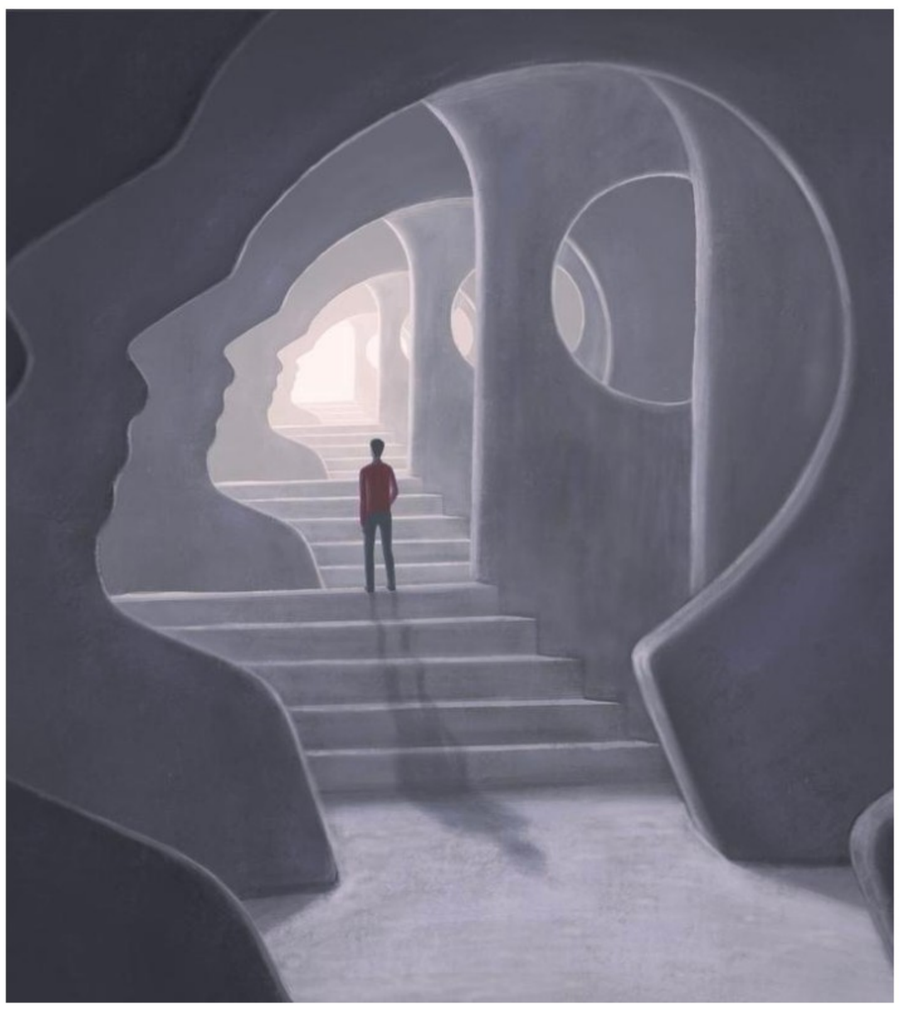
KEYWORD

Ethics and epistemology of ancient Indian Materialists

In the Materialist schema of things, no divine agency exists to safeguard society from terrors, either natural or of human provenance; any social action, for better or for worse, operates on human will and intelligence

Prathmesh Kher

The Indian philosophical tradition was born of the same principle by which all philosophical traditions in the world were developed. By the observation, and contemplation of the world around them. Through these observations, various schools of philosophy developed their own fundamental ideas of the world, and set forth their ontological, epistemological, and axiological notions.



ISTOCKPHOTO

What you see is what you get

All schools of philosophy had to provide proofs, or *pramānas*, for their conceptual framework. The most common pramāna was *pratyaksa*, or perception, or more literally that which is within sight. From the Vedantic doctrine, to the Sāmkhyists who followed Kapila, as well as Kanāda's Vaiśesika school, adhere to pratyaksa as the principal proof. "*Pratyaksagamyam ēvāsti nāstyadrstamadrstatah | adrstavādibhiśchāpi nādrstam drstamuchyatē*" or "perception allows access to only existence, non-existence is unseen for it cannot be seen," as the Śankarācārya recounts in his Sarva Siddhanta Sangraha.

One of the cardinal principles of materialism is that perception is the foundation of all knowledge. The implication of this principle is the denial of innate ideas. Consciousness does not exist independently of outside things. As Ayn Rand, the founder of objectivism, had declared: "If nothing exists, there can be no consciousness: a consciousness with nothing to be conscious of is a contradiction in terms. A consciousness conscious of nothing but itself is a contradiction in terms: before it could identify itself as consciousness, it had to be conscious of something."

Another contention was that the Lokāyatas did not accede to any proofs beyond perception, particularly to inference, which was accepted by other rationalist schools of philosophy, including Sāmkhya, who believed in psycho-physical parallelism, and Vaiśesika, which was atomistic. However, that myth can also be laid to rest. The Sarva Mata Samgraha, often credited to Rāghvānanda, states: "This rice, because of its riceness, satisfies hunger as it did yesterday – such an inference as this is included there (in the Lokāyata-śāstra) due to its being rooted in perception." In addition, this verse from the Shantiparva of Mahābhārata reflects memorably on the Lokāyata philosophy. "*Pratyaksam hyētayōrmūlam krtāntaitihyayōrapi | pratyaksō hyāgamō'bhinnah krtāntō vā na kiñchana || yatra tatrānumānē'sti krtam bhāvayatē'pi vā |*" or "perception is the root of doctrine. Perception and doctrine are thus indistinct from each other. This or that inference comes into being as well (through perception)."

Thus, the Lokāyata philosophers did include logically drawn inference as a follow up to the proof of perception. However, if an author claimed that just as a pot needed a potter, the cosmos needed a creator, the Lokāyatas would readily reject it. Additionally, it would lead to the logical quandary of infinite regress, for the creator too would need a creator and so on into infinity.

What is the ethic of Materialism

The dictum of 'eat, drink and be merry' is often latched on to the pleasure-seeking ways of materialists. Best encapsulated by the Sanskrit dictum "*yāvat jīvēt sukham jīvēt*" or "whilst living, live well". Let us seek into the origins of this dictum.

"If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for human motives, what did I gain? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." says Saint Paul in his Epistle to the Corinthians (15:32). The notion that without the possibility of a life after death, fighting for hope and justice is of no value, leads to the notion that all righteous struggle must be divinely motivated. In India too, the materialists were scorned upon, on the basis of this very charge. For Mādhavācarya recounts in the Sarva Darshana Samagraha, "*yāvat jīvēt sukham jīvēt | rnam krtvā ghrtam pibēt || bhasmibhūtasya dēhasya punarāgamanam kutam,*' or "while alive, live well; Enjoy your life as long as you have it. Take credit but consume ghee. For how can the body return once it is turned to ashes?"

But if life is only of this world, what of ethics? Should the dictum of society be 'every man for himself, devil take the hindmost.' That is a question each man or woman has to answer for themselves. Values are not a given but are created by human beings. How one acts influences both oneself and the world, whether for better or for worse. This is no dogmatic adherence to the doctrine of *karma*. If one pollutes the environment, or stands by in the face of global starvation, or looks on as a tyrant obliterates freedom, the materiality of reality will come crashing down on mankind like a ton of bricks. The elemental laws will play themselves out.

After all, in the Materialist schema of things, no divine agency exists to safeguard human society from terrors, either natural or of human provenance. "We do not believe in God, hell and heaven, punishment and rewards, that is in any Godly accounting of human life. Therefore, we must think of life and death on materialist lines... a man with beliefs and ideals like mine, could never think of dying uselessly. We want to get the maximum value for our lives. We want to serve humanity as much as possible," the Indian revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh had written to his comrade Sukhdev during their imprisonment.

Therefore, while the idea of an afterlife did not bother their thoughts, the Lokāyatas did, however, recast the religious notions of hell and heaven in their own attitude of this-worldliness. "*Narakānubhavō vairiśastravyādh yādyupadravah*" or "The experience of hell is death by the enemy's weapon, diseases, starvation and other such pains." Even today, we witness the abjection caused by war and the despair of the hungry. Is this any worse than the metaphysical fires of hell which await to cause suffering to earthly evildoers?

The Lokāyatas did not conceive of heaven as a supernatural category either. Heaven is very real too. "*Rāja bhōgān anubhavan mahā arhān pārthiva ātmaja | vihara tvam ayōdhyāyām yathā śakrah trivistapē*" or "O, prince! Enjoy the royal luxuries worthy of you. Enjoy yourself in Ayodhya as Indra the King of Gods does in heaven!" declares Jābāli to Lord Rāmā. The Lokāyatas lived in a patriarchal age, and as such their conception of heaven reflects the male preoccupation with the female of the human species. "*Svargānubhūtirmrstā stirdvyastavarsavadhūgamah | sūksmavastra sugandhasrak chandanādinisēvanam*" or "The experience of heaven is a beautiful young bride. She sports scant clothes, perfumes, garlands, and other such beautifiers." If these words seem to betoken the baser instincts in man, one would not be wrong. After all, pleasure itself was not seen as immoral by the materialists. But as Jābāli's words shout out to remind us "*na asti kāchidd hi kasyachit*" or "No one 'belongs' to another." A philosophy that looks at a human being, with the soul as coterminous with the body, cannot but reject the notion of any permanent 'belonging'. As such, no individual would, or should, be expected to love someone who would coerce or abuse them, nor be expected to hate someone who would care for them.

As the Roman materialist Lucretius had written in *On the Nature of Things*, both men and women seek the *'communi voluptas'* or common pleasure. This reciprocity of desire was what one sought in the 'other', and what the other sought from oneself. Do these sound like the musings of crude, leering, self-centred philosophers, or, rather, as the materialists in India would have put it – those who wished to 'consume the self'?

Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit

The moral indignity felt by those good men and women of ancient past living at the end of the Vedic age to the repressive social atmosphere generated by the ritualistic excess of the clergy and vainglorious pomposity of the kings gave way to various responses in that hoary age. The Lokāyatas favoured a total rejection of the religious mode of thought.

But there were also the responses of the Buddhists, who sought to retain *dharma*; to continue the characteristics even if the conventions were to dissolve. Even those who did not break with the Vedic canon themselves saw a response to this age of excess. "Such self-conceited and stubborn people, full of pride and arrogant in their wealth, perform rituals in all but name but with great ostentation, and without regard to the rules," says Bhagavad Gita 16:17 referring to those with demonic impulses.

If the Gita feels so strongly about this sort of ostentatious ritualism, so as to call it 'demonic', it is not surprising that the materialist Lokāyatas would have assuredly found it condemnable. The Lokāyatas, being committed to finding the root of all things, found the rank ritualism in the concluding periods of the Vedic era exploitative and useless, and as such offered the common masses of that era an easy outlet from such beliefs.

Recalling the impact of the Lokāyatas, Dr. Dakshinaranjan Shastri sums up in his 1928 *A Short History of Indian Materialism, Sensationalism and Hedonism*, "They set forth canons and theories with a boldness which is really amazing. Caste, rank in society or orthodoxy of views were out of the question in their society. They entertain the utmost freedom in thought, in religious and social matters. They were absolutely beyond the prejudices and conventions of the ordinary people." Even Mādhavācarya in his introduction to the philosophy of the Lokāyatas states, "The efforts of Chárváka are indeed hard to be eradicated."

Hard indeed, for it originates within the human mind. As part of the self-same material reality of which it is a part and parcel of, the mind responds to the stimuli it is exposed to, and in the light of that experience develops ideas. And as long as there is social, psychological and physical oppression of the individual, man's mind will continue to produce ideas and instruments to break these shackles in its quest for true freedom.

This is the second of a two-part series on the philosophy of Indian Materialism

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

Sir, Mr. N. Rajagopalachary wants to know the meaning of 'I am in his bad books'."

" 'To be in the bad books of someone' means 'to be out of favour with someone'. A black book was originally a book which contained the names of those who were 'in disgrace or merited punishment'. From this, you have the expression 'to be in someone's black books' or 'to be in someone's bad books'. 'To be in one's good books' is to be in one's list of good people or friends.

I am in his good books."

"Sir, Ms. M. Sarma wants to know the difference between 'turbid' and 'turgid'."

" 'Turbid' means 'muddy', 'not clear'.

His writings are rather turbid.

'Turgid' means 'swollen'. A turgid river is a river in floods, a swollen river. Figuratively, it means 'overblown, grandiloquent, too solemn and, self-important'. The 'u' in both words is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bird'. The 'i' in the two words is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bit'. The 'g' in 'turgid' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'judge'."

"Regarding the distinction between chemists and druggists, I have received about 50 letters. I am reproducing two of them. The writer of the first letter hasn't given his name or address. She (he?) says that her letter is based on a study of two books on the subject. The second letter is from Dr. H. Charles Devadoss. "In Britain there existed a group of people, subservient to physicians and they were called apothecaries. This group of people later became independent and were involved in the sale of drugs. At that time, even grocers used to sell drugs. So apothecaries obtained a charter by which grocers were prohibited from selling drugs. Apothecaries trespassed into medical practice, which led to an Act in 1511 by which only physicians were allowed to practise medicine; but later in 1542 another Act was passed by which anyone was allowed to practise medicine. Because of this, apothecaries gave free medical advice and sold drugs. So physicians started a dispensary next to their place of work and sold medicines at a much cheaper rate'. The dispensary-assistants trained by physicians were called 'chemists'. Later "chemists and druggists" joined together and formed a union and from then on the two words have always been used together." (2) "The word chemist is the short form of "Dispensing Chemist". A chemist means one who makes powders, emulsions, mixtures, etc as per the prescription of a medical practitioner. Only a qualified pharmacist is entitled to dispense. 'Druggist' means one who merely sells drugs."

"Sir, Ms. R. K. Gujral, Agra, wants to know what word should be used for a group of lions."

"A pride of lions. In English, we have special words for certain groups. A flight of birds, a litter of puppies, a school or shoal of fish, a swarm of bees, a throng of people, a herd or drove of cattle, a bevy of girls, a flock of sheep, etc. Recently the *Times Higher Education Supplement* asked its readers to suggest a word for a congregation of Vice-Chancellors. The following were suggested: A lack of VCs, a sycophancy of VCs, an incompetence of VCs, a capitulation of VCs, a vagary of VCs, a vacillation of VCs, a perk of VCs, a polyphony of VCs, a squabble of VCs. Readers may suggest a word for (a) group of lecturers (b) readers (c) professors."

Published in The Hindu on January 1, 1990

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949. It came into effect on January 26, 1950. A quiz related to the Constitution

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1
Who was the only female member of the drafting committee of the Indian Constitution?

QUESTION 2
The original Constitution of India was handwritten and calligraphed. Who was the calligrapher?

QUESTION 3
Which animal is declared as the National aquatic animal of India in the Indian Constitution?

QUESTION 4
How many languages are recognised by the Indian Constitution as scheduled languages?

QUESTION 5
Who was the first Indian to introduce the concept of a Constituent Assembly to draft the Constitution?

QUESTION 6
According to the Indian Constitution, what is the minimum age required to become the Prime Minister of India?

Visual question:
Identify the gentleman to the right of Mahatma Gandhi. He was the illustrator for the images in our Constitution

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. JFK was gunned down in this city at this time. **Ans: Dealy Plaza, Dallas, Texas and 12.30 p.m**
2. The shooter and the building from which he shot from. **Ans: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Texas School Book Depository**
3. The significance of Abraham Zapruder. **Ans: His 26.6 seconds-long home movie is regarded as the most complete footage of the assassination**
4. The other passengers, apart from the Kennedys and the driver, who were in the 1961 Lincoln Continental. **Ans: Texas Governor John Connally Jr. and his wife**
5. The hospital where JFK died. **Ans: Parkland Memorial Hospital**
6. This person took the oath of office as the President within 100 minutes of the death at this plce. **Ans: Lyndon B. Johnson on Air Force One**
7. The commonly known name of the 'President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy'. **Ans: Warren Commission**
Visual: Name the person and the importance of the event. **Ans: Jack Ruby; regarded as the first homicide caught on live TV**
Early Birds: Gaurav Gupta| Kamuju Ridhi Trailokya| Amaan

Word of the day

Slake:
satisfy (thirst); make less active or intense; cause to heat and crumble by treatment with water

Synonyms: quench, allay, assuage, abate

Usage: *They were able to slake their thirst at home.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/slakepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sleɪk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

To tackle fake marks cards, govt. makes digital academic documents for recruitments official

Higher education institutions have been directed to store UG and PG mark sheets, certificates, and other documents in NAD-DigiLocker

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To avoid the menace of fake marks cards, the State government has decided to make digital marks cards and educational certificates official for recruitments.

The government has issued an order that recruiting authorities and institutions should consider the marks cards and educational certificates in the National Academic Depository (NAD)-DigiLocker as official during recruitment.

In addition, from the academic year 2023-24, subordinate departments under the Department of Higher Education, public universities, and all educational institutions have been directed to compulsorily store graduation and postgraduation marks sheets, certificates, and other academic documents in digital form on NAD-DigiLocker.

A file photo of the fake marks cards and certificates seized in Kalaburagi.

Higher education students have also been advised to register their credits in the 'Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).'

The Union government has set up NAD, a digital depository of educational awards (certificates), to bring about administrative and educational reforms in the education sector.

Since the launch of NAD, educational institutions, including Central universities, State universities, private universities, Central higher education institutions, school boards, are uploading their educational awards in NAD. Many users are using NAD services through DigiLocker to get their academic awards online.

The UGC has informed all universities, higher educational institutes, and stakeholders concerned to use NAD services through DigiLocker for institutions seeking to verify academic records. The original documents available on DigiLocker are valid documents as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2020. Also, higher education institutions have been asked to accept digital academic documents, as attested documents are available on DigiLocker.

On the other hand, under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) the Union government has launched the Academic Bank of Credit Scheme (ABC) for higher education students. ABC is a system in which students accumulate credits earned at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and credits can be transferrable when students shift from the institution.

Budget announcement

The State government announced in the 2023-24 Budget that to avoid the menace of fake marks sheets, steps will be taken to make it mandatory for all higher education students to register with ABC and for recruitment, marks cards, and educational certificates in NAD-DigiLocker.

Although steps have been taken by the State government to store marks cards and other educational documents in NAD-DigiLocker through the Unified University College Management System (UUCMS) portal, no university has uploaded the academic documents of the previous years' students on DigiLocker. Students are also not aware of the move.

The government has now ordered the storage of all degree and postgraduation marks cards and academic certificates of students of higher educational institutions on NAD-DigiLocker. The students have been told to register and store the credits obtained with ABC compulsorily.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vidyashree, who aspires to join the government service, welcomed the move. "I am working in a private company and applied for a government job and successfully wrote the competitive exam recently. Online applications are being invited for government jobs. All the original documents including the mark sheets should be scanned and uploaded online. Many times, the files are not uploaded due to server and Internet problems. Getting our academic documents through DigiLocker will be more convenient for candidates and recruitment authorities. Even private organisations are asking for digital records these days."

Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru City University, called it a good reform. "We have already completed two convocations and uploaded all the educational documents, including marks cards, on DigiLocker. Students and recruiting authorities can use these as per requirement."

Conference on climate resilience, sustainable development begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'A compelling body of evidence has underscored the undeniable reality that the Earth's climate is undergoing profound changes'

The three-day national conference on climate resilience and sustainable development was inaugurated on Wednesday.

V.K. Dadhwal, Indira Gandhi Ecology Chair Professor, NIAS, in his inaugural address, said that a compelling body of evidence has underscored the undeniable reality that the Earth's climate is undergoing profound changes.

"In spite of the remarkable progress of contemporary society, climate change emerges as a substantial and imminent threat to the global ecosystem. The primary driver of this impactful transformation lies in human activities, significantly altering the Earth's climate and giving rise to extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels," Dr. Dadhwal said.

He also spoke about the UN 2023 Report, which identified some key action points asking nations to recommit to seven years of accelerated, sustained and transformative action, both nationally and internationally, to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals.

K. Ganesh Raj, former general manager, Regional Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, said addressing climate change demands a concerted effort to mitigate further damage and adopt sustainable practices, recognising the urgency of safeguarding our planet for current and future generations.

"Hence, it is crucial to give impetus to climate change research, especially at the local level, to develop effective mitigation and adaptation strategies," he said.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 23, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Haryana's private sector domicile reservation law **bit.ly/haryanajobsprivate**
- Lower oxygen at high altitudes increases lifespan in ageing mice: study **bit.ly/oxygenlifespan**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

994 drivers booked for carrying schoolchildren beyond vehicle capacity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a special drive launched on Wednesday across Bengaluru, the traffic police booked 994 cases against vehicles carrying schoolchildren in excess of the permitted seating capacity.

Based on a series of complaints and concerns raised online, a special drive was conducted after school hours across Bengaluru. Police checked 2,050 vehicles carrying schoolchildren, and booked the drivers of 319 buses, 122 autorickshaws, 133 minivans, 332 vans and 89 other vehicles.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) M.N. Anucheth has told school managements and private vehicle drivers to follow the Supreme Court and State Government directions strictly while ferrying schoolchildren.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, NOV. 23	
RISE 06:21	SET 17:50
RISE 14:46	SET 02:22
FRIDAY, NOV. 24	
RISE 06:22	SET 17:50
RISE 15:28	SET 03:17
SATURDAY, NOV. 25	
RISE 06:22	SET 17:50
RISE 16:11	SET 04:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	31	24
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Health Department sets goal to make Karnataka anaemia-free by 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao interacts with students during the 'Anaemia free and Nutritional Karnataka' programme in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ANI

Bringing health services to the doorsteps of people in Karnataka is the goal of the Congress government, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Launching the "Anaemia Muktha Pousthika Karnataka" (anaemia-free Karnataka) programme organised by the State Health Department, the Chief Minister said ensuring good health for people is not possible without eradicating poverty and illiteracy. "Addressing these issues is the first priority of our government. Our government's aim is to reach health benefits to everyone's doorstep. The government is ready to provide the required funds for this," he said.

Referring to the rising malnutrition index in the country and falling health index of Gujarat, Mr. Siddaramaiah ridiculed the much-talked about Gujarat model. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who refers to himself as Vishwaguru, ruled Gujarat for 10 long years. He must answer why Gujarat's health index is falling. This is based on a comparison of data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and NFHS-5. Can this situation in Gujarat be a model for the entire country?'' he asked.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the goal is to make Karnataka anaemia-free by 2025. "The Chief Minister has earmarked ₹185.74 crore for the programme," he said.

"Under the programme, the government aims to reach 52 lakh children in the 6-59 months age group, 58 lakh children in the 5-9 years group, 127 lakh adolescents in the 10-19 years group, 12 lakh pregnant women, 11 lakh lactating mothers, and 133 lakh women in the reproductive age group (20-49 years excluding pregnant women and lactating mothers) in a phased manner," he said.

The programme will include mass screening for anaemia and malnutrition, strengthening the tracking and monitoring system, providing Iron and Folic acid (IFA) supplementation and deworming, providing take home ration and diet advisory, information, education and communication (IEC) and counselling services apart from capacity building.

Under the first phase, screening for anaemia began on Wednesday for adolescents in government and government aided colleges. Students of private PU Colleges in the State will be covered by December 2023.

While students of government and government aided high schools, higher primary schools and lower primary schools in the State will be covered by January 2024, anganawadi children will be screened by March 2024. Subsequently, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and women in the reproductive age group will be screened in all public health care institutions simultaneously, the Minister said.

The data will be uploaded on the RBSK-Swastya Kirana portal on a real-time basis and will be further periodically uploaded on HMIS portal, he said.

Hospital sets Guinness record for most people sanitising hands simultaneously

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A private hospital in the city has achieved a Guinness World Record for facilitating hand sanitisation of 9,860 people simultaneously through a 'Clean Hands Save Lives' campaign.

The "most people sanitising their hands simultaneously' feat was achieved by Gleneagles Hospitals, Bengaluru, during the grand finale at ISKCON Vaikuntha Hill on Kanakapura Road. The event marked the culmination of a transformative five-month journey that united the community in prioritising hand hygiene.

Taken up in collaboration with Rotary Bengaluru Gnanakshi Club and Rotary District 3191, the campaign aimed at instilling the habit of regular hand cleaning and sanitisation among children.

The campaign became a city-wide movement engaging with 55 schools and educating over 80,000 students on crucial hand hygiene practices since June 21, 2023.

Disruption in power supply

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be disruption in power supply on Thursday between 10.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66./11 kV Banaswadi MUSS. The areas are: HRBR 1st, 2nd and 3rd Blocks, service Road, Kammanahalli Main Road, CMR Road, Babusapalya, Balachandra Layout, Arkavathy Layout, Anjanadri Layout Enclave, Balaji Layout, Chelekere, Subbayanapalya, Horamavu, Nandanam Colony, and surrounding areas.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka
CALLING ALL INNOVATIVE STARTUPS
Government of Karnataka is looking for the most innovative startups to Elevate them to the next level of entrepreneurship
ELEVATE 2023
BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT
29TH NOV - 1ST DEC, 2023 • BANGALORE PALACE
BREAKING BOUNDARIES
ONLINE APPLICATION: ELEVATE 2023 CALL-2 & ELEVATE UNNATI 2023
Nurturing early stage startups with Grant-in-Aid upto ₹ 50,00,000/-
TIMELINE TO APPLY | 23rd November, 2023 (9:00 am) IST to 23rd December, 2023 (5:00 pm) IST
K-tech
STARTUP KARNATAKA
Elevate 2023 - Call 2
Funded by:
Government of Karnataka
Elevate UNNATI 2023
Funded by:
Social Welfare Department, GOK
Scan the QR code to apply and to know more or visit
startup.karnataka.gov.in
For Queries, call on 080-2223 1007 or write to us at elevate-ktech@ka.gov.in for more details

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From Page One

Caste census report to be delayed; panel chief's tenure to be extended

The BJP recently appointed a Lingayat leader, B. Y. Vijayendra, as its state unit chief while R. Ashok, a Vokkaliga leader, has been appointed as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

On Wednesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters that the government would continue Mr. Hegde till he submitted the report.

"He has met me once and sought two to three months time. I have told him to give the report before January."

Replying on the opposition by caste groups to the report, the Chief Minister said: "Some are opposed to the report even before seeing it. The Cabinet will discuss the report after it is submitted."

Asked about the opposition by the Vokkaligara Sangha, he said: "They met me on Tuesday. I have asked them why they were against the report since no one, including me, has seen the report yet."

On news reports about Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar being opposed to it, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "The Deputy Chief Minister has not spoken about the issue with me."

Conducted in 2015

Though the survey was conducted in 2015 when H. Kantharaj headed the commission, the report could not be submitted as the member-secretary had not affixed his signature even as Chief Ministers, including Mr. Siddaramaiah, had dithered on accepting the report.

However, a large number of most backward castes that have hardly had any reservation benefits either in public employment or education, are eagerly awaiting the report that can throw light on their status in comparison to other backward classes.

Survey report

Sources in the backward classes commission said that the panel had sought time to complete the socio-economic survey report. "The commission felt that the report has long-term ramifications and that it should not be done in a hurry. Hence, more time has been sought," they said.

The sources claimed that about 90% of the work on the report was ready, and that the commission would be in a position to submit it to the government in the next few weeks.

Is Congress govt. divided over caste census report as Dy. CM is opposing it?

Political leaders from the Vokkaliga community, including Shivakumar, have written to the Chief Minister, urging him to reject the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress in Karnataka seems to be divided on the issue of caste census as Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said he signed a petition urging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to reject the caste census report, which is expected to be submitted soon.

While Mr. Siddaramaiah was keen on accepting the caste census report and implementing it to ensure equal opportunities to all, Ministers belonging to the dominant Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities have been apparently opposing it by saying that the census was not done scientifically.

Political leaders from the Vokkaliga community of the State wrote to Mr. Siddaramaiah,0 urging him to reject the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, popularly known as the caste census, conducted during his first tenure as Chief Minister. The letter, signed by leaders from the Congress, the BJP, and the JD(S), claimed that the census was not scientifically conducted.

Besides Mr. Shivakumar,

D.K. Shivakumar

prominent Vokkaliga leaders such as the Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok (BJP), the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, and the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) signed the letter.

Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters that he had received the Vokkaligara Sangha's petition. "But why are they opposing it even before the report is submitted? Some are opposing it without even looking at the report. Let the report come. We'll discuss it in the Cabinet," he said.

The Chief Minister said Mr. Shivakumar had not discussed the issue related to the caste census with him.

Mr. Shivakumar said he stands by the party's line on the caste census but the demand of various communities for a scientific approach to the census must be considered.

> Some are opposing it without even looking at the report. Let the report come. We'll discuss it in the Cabinet.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

Speaking to reporters at the Chief Minister's residence, he said, "Many communities are fighting for proportional reservation. Scheduled Castes, Panchamasalis, Veerashaivas, and Vokkaligas are all fighting. These demands are cutting across party lines. However, certain communities have said that they had not been contacted before the census and hence are demanding a scientific caste census."

For community cause

Asked if he had signed the petition sent to the Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Politicians from various communities have been rallying around this issue. Politics is different. We want our community's self-respect to be protected," and defended his signature on the petition. "MLAs and community leaders feel that the survey wasn't done properly. It must be done scientifically," he said.

The KPCC president's reactions on the caste census came a day after Mr. Siddaramaiah posted on X (formerly Twitter): "I am determined to implement the caste census findings in order to provide "justice to communities deprived of opportunities".

Mr. Siddaramaiah supported Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's announcement that a nationwide caste census would be commissioned if his party won the Lok Sabha polls.

On Tuesday, Siddaramaiah said that only a caste census could ensure equal opportunities. "Only then will the country's independence be worthwhile".

However, leaders of the State's two dominant communities – Vokkaliga and Lingayat – have publicly announced they would oppose the caste census.

The caste census data has not been made public fearing political setbacks, particularly after some leaked data indicated that Vokkaligas and Lingayats were not the dominant castes, which was contrary to the present political argument.

Kantharaj panel's original report goes missing

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Amid misgivings by the dominant Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaliga communities over the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, another controversy has erupted over the missing documents from the erstwhile H. Kantharaj Commission that conducted the survey. However, the data collected for the census, for which signatures of Mr. Kantharaj, commission members, and member-secretary were affixed, is intact, commission sources said.

It now emerges that the original report of the Kantharaj commission has been missing following which the commission communicated with the then commission's member-secretary N.V. Prasad, seeking his response. Commission sources said that despite reminders, it has not received any response. While the printed copies of the Kantharaj commission report had scanned signatures of Mr. Kantharaj and other members, the signature of the member-secretary is missing, the commission's official communication, copies of which are with *The Hindu*, show.

Following the 214th special meeting of the commission in August 2021 during which it was decided to open four sealed trunks containing the Kantharaj commission's findings, the current commission is learnt to have found printed books containing the data, the main report and two compact discs. The commission, it is learnt, had decided to seek additional information from the then member-secretary since his name figured in the report. In the absence of a reply, the commission in August 2022 wanted to know from Mr. Prasad if he had dissented with the report findings as he had not affixed the signature. Commission sources said they did not receive response for both communications.

Data intact

Meanwhile, commission sources said the data in the printed copy and the soft copy that has signatures of the then commission chairperson and members besides the member-secretary is intact. "What is missing is only the original copy of the commission report. When we sought to know details from the then member-secretary, we did not get any response." Commission sources said that since data is available, providing report will not be affected.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday told reporters that he was not aware of the missing report in the commission.

Govt. seeks new report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government, in a communication to the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, is learnt have sought a new report based on the data collected as part of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) in 2015 by the then H. Kantharaj commission.

"This (Congress) government has asked for a new report. Though the old report (Kantharaj commission report) is not needed now, it would have helped the current commission to hasten the process. If the old (original) report was available, it would have helped us with indicators and weightage that the previous commission had given to each caste." Since the original data is intact, are in the process of readying the report, sources said.

Appointments to boards after another round of talks: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said a list of legislators and party leaders to be appointed as heads of the government-owned boards and corporations will be ready after another round of meeting with party central leaders.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, said, "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and I are going to Telangana for election campaigning. A final list will be sent to the high command after another round of meeting with central leaders who are visiting the State on November 28".

Asked if Home Minister G. Parameshwara was unhappy about the process of appointments for boards and corporations, he said, "The Home Minister has been on a tour for the last three days. There is no resentment. The media is reading too much into this. The appointments for boards and corporations are for the party members who have worked hard for the party. There is nothing like my candidate, his candidate or someone else's candidate. Discussions are on to accommodate many senior MLAs who have not been represented in the Ministry."

Rubbishes charges

Brushing aside the allegation of the BJP that the Congress had been delaying the appointments for boards and corporations by demanding money from aspirants, he retorted, "We are in the process of appointing for boards and corporations within a few months of coming to power. When did the BJP make these appointments? They could not even fill four or five Cabinet positions which were vacant till the end". Mr. Siddaramaiah too said the list of candidates to be appointed had not been finalised.

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala held an hour-long meeting on Tuesday with Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar on these appointments.

Conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar's high-end vehicles to be auctioned to recover I-T dues

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

As many as 12 high-end vehicles that have been seized from conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar, who is now lodged in jail in Delhi, will be auctioned in Bengaluru on November 28 to recover the dues he owes to various institutions.

These vehicles were seized from various places by Income Tax Department officials, who investigated the financial transactions of Sukesh. He is accused of committing fraud on the wives of former promoters of Ranbaxy of ₹200 crore by promising to secure bail for the company's promoters. He is accused of impersonating a Law Ministry official to cheat the women.

Some of the seized high-end cars of Sukesh Chandrasekhar parked at the Income Tax Department office in Bengaluru.

He is also facing investigation by the Enforcement Department for laundering money.

Among the vehicles that will be auctioned are 11 four-wheelers – BMW M-5, Range Rover, Jaguar XKR Coupe, Innova Crysta, Nissan Teana, Porsche, Toyota Fortuner, Bentley, Rolls Royce, Lamborghini, Toyota Prade – and cruiser bike Ducati Diavel. The reserve price for vehicles ranges from ₹2.03 lakh for Nissan Teana to ₹1.74 crore for Rolls Royce.

Department sources familiar with the auction said the vehicle auction was part of the recovery process that it had initiated against Sukesh to recover certificate of debt, dues of which total ₹308.48 crore as of November 10 for the financial years 2012-2013 to 2018-2019. The vehicles were seized in 2018 from various parts of the country, including Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and had been brought to Bengaluru. "These vehicles were in good condition and drivers were hired to bring them to Bengaluru. The online auction will be held on November 28."

Meanwhile, as the department opened up the vehicles for inspection on Wednesday, a number of prospective bidders made a beeline for its office here to check their condition and enquire about the bidding process. A department official said the inspection was open for two more days, and that they were expecting more people to turn up.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana,
1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024
E-mail: commissionerahvs@gmail.com, Ph: 080-23412767

No.: CAH:VMS:IAH&VB:Tender:2022-23 Dated: 22.11.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites tender through (Website No: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) from eligible tenderers **for supply of Laboratory equipments to regional disease and diagnostic laboratories for the year 2023-24** Tendered Amount is **Rs. 276.00 lakhs**.

Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting Website No: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **22.11.2023** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP Portal from **22.11.2023 to 21.12.2023 till 5.30 PM**.

Further information can be obtained from e-procurement Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director,
Veterinary Medical Stores,
Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2221/SPAN/2023-24

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

SHANTHA CHAKRAPANI

We will miss your love and guidance everyday

Sons: C.Vijayanand, C.Vijayram and Family members

Government of Karnataka
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
Opp: Mini Vidhana Soudha, Aiwan-E-Shahi Road, Kalaburagi-585102
Phone No: 08472-278621 Email Id: dswoglb@gmail.com

No.JDSWDK:KREIS:CR:06:2023-24 Date:21-11-2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short term e-Tender notification has been Called for the financial year 2023-24 for procuring manpower services for the Group- C & D Vacancies available in various types of Residential Schools in the district as per the Karnataka transparency in public procurement Act 1999 and 2000 from the eligible agencies though KPPP.

Events of e-procurement.

E-Tender Notification date:21-11-2023, Estimated amount put for e-Tender– **Rs. 495.00 lakhs,** Starting date of uploading the e-Tender form **21-11-2023** from morning **10-00 Am.,** Pre-bid meeting date **15-12-2023** morning **11-30 Am** in Joint Director, Social Welfare Department office, Kalaburagi., Last date for uploading the e-Tender **21-12-2023 5-30 Pm,** Technical bid opening date **26-12-2023 morning 11-00 Am,** Financial bid opening date **30-12-2023 morning 11-00 Am**, E.M.D. amount **Rs.12.38 lakhs,** Contact address of the officer for enquires / information Joint Director Social Welfare Department, Kalaburagi, Telephone No.08472-278621, Mail ID. dswoglb@gmail.com

Sd/- Joint Director,
Social Welfare Department, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/487/KSMC&A/2023-24

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, SUNDARGARH

Advt. No - 2717 **SHORT-TENDER CALL NOTICE** Date - 21/11/2023

Sealed Tenders are invited from intending agency/firms /Suppliers through Speed Post / Register Post / Courier for supply of Printing of **OPD Ticket & Lab requisition format/ Lab report format/Reagent & Kits requisition format Under NHM** (ଓ.ପି.ଡି. ଟିକେଟ ଏବଂ ଲ୍ୟାବ ରେକୁଜେସନ ଫର୍ମାଟ/ଲ୍ୟାବ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ଫର୍ମାଟ ଏବଂ ରେଆଜେଣ୍ଟ – କିଟ୍ସ ରେକୁଜେସନ ଫର୍ମାଟ ପ୍ରିଣ୍ଟ ପାଇଁ ନିଲାମ) for the year 2023-24. The willing reputed agency/firms /Suppliers are requested to submit sealed tenders to the office of the undersigned on or before **11.12.2023 till 5 PM by Speed post /Register post/ Courier**. Tender documents can be downloaded/ obtained from the district website **www.sundergarh.nic.in**. This office will not entertain any tender after the due date/time fixed for at any circumstances. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or whole tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Sundargarh

E - 581 OIPR-10100/11/0025/2324

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Description of Works / Materials	Due Date and Time for Submission of Tender
1	CE/ Mechanical/ Coal	**Coal/ O.T.No.145/dt: 21.11.2023** Movement and handling of coal by rail-cum-sea route from the various collieries of Mahanadi coalfields Ltd through the load port of Paradip for the Thermal Stations of TANGEDCO.	11.12.2023 At 2.00 PM

The Tender Specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in, https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app, at free of cost.** Tender will be opened through the NIC portal.

DIPR/6279/Tender/2023 **CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL**

Emotive Resonance: An exhibition of abstract art

One of R.B . Murari's paintings.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Artist and Creative Producer R.B. Murari is all set to take Bengaluru's art lovers on an emotional exploration through abstract art.

His exhibition of abstract art, titled 'Emotive Resonance', will see a range of non-objective abstract artwork displayed at the MFK Museum from November 25 to December 10.

The paintings transcend the tangible by going beyond the constraints of defined shapes and narratives. They reflect several human experiences and aim at unravelling the mysteries of our deepest emotions.

R.B. Murari is based in Chennai and hails from a family of artists. Immersed in the world of colour and emotion since his early teens, Murari has been practicing abstract art for over three decades now.

The exhibition is free of charge, and is open to all. The museum remains closed on Mondays.

Great Indian Golf Alliance to raise awareness about cancer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Great Indian Golf Alliance (GIGA), a golf event for industry leaders and business owners, is set to take place on December 9, 2023, at Prestige Golfshire.

The event is being hosted by Bengaluru-based real estate developer White Lotus Group in association with the Sri Shankara Cancer Foundation to raise awareness about cancer, its research and treatment.

Players from across India and other prominent people including seasoned golfer Sumit Rathod, cricket commentator Charu Sharma, BCCI's Venkatapathi Raju, and D. Shiv Kumar from Advent International are expected to come together to support the cause.

Dr. B.S Srinath, Senior Consultant Surgical Oncologist, Professor, and Head of the Institution of Surgical Oncology at Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, noted that the event would be a unique opportunity to co-host and increase awareness about the Foundation's work.

Pavan Kumar, Founder and CEO of White Lotus Group is the presenting sponsor of the event. Ramakrishna Ganesh, a core committee member of Shri Shankara, is the convenor. The event is also supported by companies such as UiPath, ServiceNow, and Paz Care.

Giridhar Khasnis debuts with his collection 'Ellindalo Haari Bandu'

'My goal when I started the book was to see if I could write at least a single page in a day, and then it just happened easily'

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Sparrows around residence of Edwin Joseph, popularly known as Sparrow Man, who has turned his house to a sanctuary.

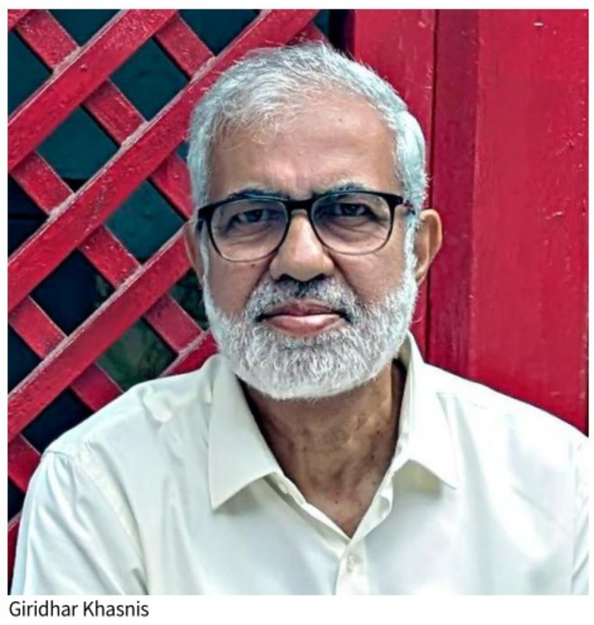
Famed artist, art critic, photographer and writer Giridhar Khasnis debuts in Kannada literature with *Ellindalo Haari Bandu* (which in English translates to came flying from somewhere), his inaugural collection of 85 short tales, micro stories, and prose poems. Ranging from micro stories spanning a few lines to the longest ones extending to two pages, the book showcases his transition from banking to artistry and now to literary creation. Giridhar, primarily recognized for his English writings, embarked on this venture into Kannada literature after more than four decades, initiated during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From banker to writer

Speaking to *The Hindu*, 66-year-old Giridhar says writing has been a passion since childhood, but writing a book in Kannada after many years was a challenge, "Writing has been a passion since childhood. I used to write in Kannada in my school and college days, I wrote many poems, prose, and plays back then. However, I turned into a banker and was in the industry for 35 years."

"In 2004 I voluntarily retired from my job as a general manager at a bank, and took up visual arts, through which I started writing art critics and columns in English.

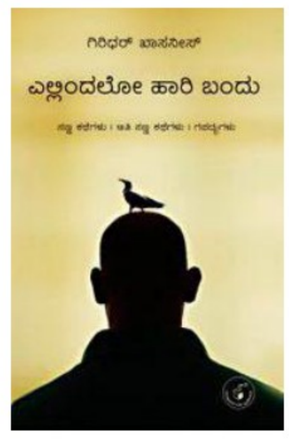
I had lost track of writing in Kannada completely. But when the pandemic happened, things changed, the world changed. It was a very creative period for me. So, I challenged myself to see if I could get back to writing in Kannada after four decades. My goal when I started the book was to see if I could write at least a single page in a day, and then it just happened easily".


Giridhar Khasnis

Talking about the style of writing followed in this book, Giridhar says he did not have a format at all, "For people who have read my book, some call it Haiku style poem, some call it prose poems, but I never bothered about which category it would fall into while writing the book. I just let myself, my experiences and let my memory do the job. I believe that life is just not a single straight line, there is realism, surrealism, or unrealism, that makes our personalities, and that is what reflects through this book".

Touch of minimalism

"As I was writing, what amazed me or what I stumbled upon was that in very few lines you could transcend narratives. It is very similar to visual arts, for example in line drawing, in a single line you express what you can not express in a six-foot-tall wide canvas. I am driven to brevity and minimalism, so I believe in short spaces you can create intense narratives. If I have to give an example of how short stories or poems originate, there was an instance when I was at an airport in Nepal, there was this tall lamppost and a tiny little bird on it, and suddenly what came to my mind was *Tall lamppost, tiny bird, what are you seeing, whom are you waiting for?*, the first two lines talk about a photographic image, but there is imagination, poetry and question in the next few lines, this does not stem from just what I am seeing, but reflects more from what I am within", Giridhar added.



The book is a bouquet of stories inspired by instances from Giridhar's real life with a sprinkle of fiction and imagination. "For me I do not know if these are stories or poems, but this is a process where people and instances around me played a huge role. My housemaid appears very strongly in my stories, she has been a great inspiration and helped me write stories, she is a great bridge between what happens outside and inside my house. As writers, we always get information second-hand, but through her, I always get information in real time. Similarly, my father was a huge part of my life, and his death created this vacuum which was hard to come out of. So, there might be reflections of my father in my stories too, but in different forms. I believe all works of art are autobiographies of some kind, so instances from my personal life are reflected in my writing in some form or the other", Giridhar said.

Homage to the birds

The title *Ellindalo Haari Bandu,* takes inspiration from the birds on his apartment terrace and is an homage to them says Giridhar, "The title is very much centered to my collection. When the pandemic happened, we were all isolated, and we were not allowed to get out. I have been living in this apartment in Sanjay Nagar for two decades, and the only place I could go to at that time was the terrace. In the first fifteen years of my life in this apartment hardly went to the terrace five times, but during the pandemic, it became an everyday routine.

It was a new universe that opened to me, there were so many birds. Initially, the birds were angry or scared, but gradually we became friends, I would talk to the birds, and they would just sit a few meters away from me. They inspired me to write many stories. With these birds, there was a bond which I had never felt in my life before. So, I had to pay homage to my little friends, which is why I called the book *Ellindalo Haari Bandu*". Published by Navakarnataka Prakashana, the book *Ellindalo Haari Bandu* (160 pages/ Rs. 195) is available online at https://navakarnataka.com/ellindalo-haari-bandu

A festival to promote green literature

GLF is a response to the urgent need for literature that helps us comprehend our relationship with the planet and promote positive climate action

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

The 3rd edition of India's first Green Literature Festival (GLF), a forum for all forms of eco-literature, will be held at the Century Club, Cubbon Park, this weekend. The festival, which will host more than 20 authors, over a dozen stalls on sustainable products and several workshops, hopes to drive "more informed and deeper conversations around important issues," says Greenlitfest's founder Benedict Paramanand.

As the festival release points out, GLF is a response to the urgent need for literature that helps us comprehend our relationship with the planet, mend the broken bits, and promote love and care for the climate through positive climate action. "We believe that these conversations will lead to people taking action and influencing policy," he says.

Other sessions

The festival, which kicks off at 10 a.m. on November 25, will have the inaugural keynote delivered by Dr. Ullas Karanth, Founder and Emeritus Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru. This is followed by a session titled *Mega Mammal Myopia: Looking Past the BIG Stars of Conservation,* which focuses on the need to drive a more holistic conservation narrative in the country. Often, too often, conservation focuses on large, charismatic mammals, as Benedict points out, leaving other organisations in an ecosystem neglected. "Plants and other fauna are also part of the whole system and need to be taken care of and preserved," says Benedict

Some of the other sessions will look into green entrepreneurship, cinematic storytelling, the business of green books, how the loss of landscapes impacts livelihoods and graphic narratives, among other offerings There will also be a series of workshops and master classes conducted by noted writers and educators as well as some interactive sessions for children. Another festival highlight is the GLF Honour Book Awards, which celebrates environmental writing across three categories--business, general fiction and non-fiction, and children–the first of its kind in the country.

Benedict Paramanand.

File photo from last year's festival.

Some of the other sessions will look into green entrepreneurship, cinematic storytelling

The partners for the event, which is supported by The Habitats Trust and The Rainmatter Foundation, include WWF India, India Climate Collaborative, the Rainmatter Foundation, Indian Youth Climate Network, ASLE, Books on the Delhi Metro, The Earth Book Club and Funky Rainbow. Talking about the effectiveness of literature in driving a conservation narrative, Rushikesh Chavan, who heads The Habitats Trust, firmly believes that it opens up ways for everyone to join the conversation about conservation.

"When it comes to conservation, it is easy to get caught in your silos, but literature helps break down these barriers," he believes.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 23, 1973

Student Groups Clash

Bangalore, Nov. 23: Difference of opinion between two groups of students on the reported remarks of the Municipal Administration Minister, Mr. B. Basavalingappa, on Kannada language and literature, led to exchange of blows between the groups at the Central College premises here today. While one group felt the reported remarks were not objectionable, the other demanded an apology from him and said it would submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister asking for action against the minister. This led to an altercation. In the scuffle, some students were injured.

Dharna by IAC Bangalore Staff

Bangalore, Nov. 23: The Staff of the Indian Airlines Corporation here, barring some officers, resorted to a dharna at the airport to-day to protest against the suspension of the Secretary of the Bangalore Branch of the Air Corporation Employees' Union.

The employees at the city and the airport offices left their posts and the handful of officers had to man the traffic operations at the Bangalore airport.

The Bangalore-Bombay flight left about 90 minutes behind schedule this morning. The IAC sources said that all the other flights were operated according to schedule. The Bangalore Air Corporation Employees Union in a press note to-night alleged that its Secretary, Mr. Phillips had been suspended by the IAC without giving any valid reasons and alleged that the suspension was a clear case of victimisation." An emergent general body meeting of the union was also held.

CITYBEATS

Behind the screen

NOVEMBER 28, 6.30PM
The film *While We Watched*, directed by Vinay Shukla and co-produced by him, Khusboo Ranka and Luke Moody, will be screened. It is being organised by Vikalp Bengaluru in association with Bangalore International Centre. The director will be in a conversation, post-screening, with journalist Dhanya Rajendran.
Visit https://vikalpbengaluru.weebly.com

Listen in

NOVEMBER 24, 7PM
Be a part of a rehearsed reading of Swetanshu Bora's *Pagdi* by Vivek Vijayakumaran. This is the second of the three rehearsed readings of plays that have won the TOTO Award for Creative Writing in the past; *Pagdi* was the winner in 2013. The readings form part of a series of events that connect to young artists TFA has encouraged.
At Atta Galatta

Clean bowled

ON GOING
The newly launched Societe Rangoon has come up with a winter food menu. These Burmese dishes will include bowls of traditional baya kyaw hin gyo (Burmese falafel soup), ohn-no kauk swe (Burmese chicken soup), chin baung chat with gongura leaves and more. The food is priced at ₹1700 for two.
Call 080-22273820 for details.

Saad Khan returns with *Constable Girpade*

Writer-director Saad Khan talks about the making of *Constable Girpade*, a dramatic comedy about a bumbling policeman, his follow-up to *Humble Politician Nograj*

Shilpa Anandraj

It all started with one short film, *Another Kind Of Black*, that made it to a special screening at the Cannes Film festival in 2008 and Saad Khan was hooked to the world of cinema. Soon, FirstAction Studios was born, and with 2018's comedy, *Humble Politician Nograj*, Saad had arrived. *Humble Politician Nograj* was made into a series. Saad with his roots in improv and stand-up, favours comedy and his second series, currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video, *Constable Girpade*, is generating chuckles.

Khushaal Pawaar plays the title role. "I thought of *Girpade* five years ago," says Saad speaking from his home in Bengaluru. "I was shuttling between Bengaluru and Mumbai for my improv shows. When I was in Mumbai, I came across many surnames including Ghorpade. I had a silly conversation with my friend that if this person slips and falls then he will be *gir pade* (fell down). We were in splits like children. The effect of the name stayed with me for long."

"I have been lucky with my titles this far," says Saad. "A title creates a certain amount of curiosity." After the *Nograj* series, Saad says he got calls from production houses in Mumbai. "I have to thank the audience and am humbled by the response for the years of work."

One of the calls was from Amazon Prime. "I had prepared four pitches. Despite a four-hour meeting, nothing clicked. When the first four were rejected, they asked if I had anything else. I gave them a one-liner – Girpade is a clumsy cop who stumbles and fumbles. They were interested and I was surprised they did not want to know any more, but asked me to start working on it."

After the Girpade pitch was cleared, Saad says everything moved with clockwork precision. "I am a huge believer in the written word, so my team of writers and I sat for long hours to put everything down on paper." Saad wrote the series with Aditya Bharadwaj and Abhinav Vaidya from FirstAction Studios. Maaz Khan is the producer of the series.

Content, Saad says, is their strength. "One cannot slack on writing. We charted out the episode arcs, as well as the secondary and character arcs. The show took shape with every written word."

> I am a huge believer in the written word, so my team of writers and I sat for long hours to put everything down on paper.
> **SAAD KHAN**
> Writer-director

Wholesome show A balance of emotions, comedy and suspense, says Saad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Working with Kushaal, Saad says, was a pleasure. "He is also a casting director and has done many cameos including in *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*. I saw one of his reels where he plays multiple characters and felt he had an amazing craft. I like it when an actor is able to switch between multiple characters effortlessly."

At times, Saad says when an actor is portraying a character on screen, there are chances that they look fake. "This was not so with Kushaal. I backed him for this role as he had not just the look, but also the body language and reactions."

Saad, who calls himself a Bengaluru boy, is now working on a Telugu script. The film will be produced by G Manoharan from Lahari Films, Nikhil Kumar from NK Entertainment and Sunil Kumar from Nandi Entertainments. "It will be a romantic comedy. Titled *Sangeet*, the shooting will start in January. It is a big-budget film. I have still not reached a position where people will splurge millions on me, but compared to what I've done till date, this is a huge budget."

Laughter, Saad says is good. "*Constable Girpade* is termed a wholesome show, with a balance of emotions, comedy and suspense. *Nograj* was just an out-and-out comedy, while *Constable Girpade* is a comedy drama."

Coming from a non-film background with a degree with mechanical engineering, Saad was supporting his family from when he was quite young. "The struggle was real. My tough journey has grounded me. No matter how good your work is or how many awards you get, people will never praise you more than what is required. Yet, I believe I have been lucky."

The making of *Constable Girpade*, Saad says was loaded with laughter. "The crew and cast had fun. Sometimes, the actors added their punchlines." The series was shot at lightning speed in and around Mumbai during the sweltering summer, says Saad. A huge fan of Christopher Nolan, Saad says he follows his idol's philosophy to "entertain, enlighten and engage the audience with my work."

Constable Girpade is currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video

Tuning in to what's real

Anurag Tagat

Like any good singer-songwriter, Michael Dias has written tons of songs over the last two decades or so. A part of the Bengaluru rock circuit with his band Mad Orange Fireworks, the artiste now lives in the quiet town of Aldona in Goa and that far-from-the-madding-crowd lifestyle is what has arguably spawned his debut solo album *Show Me What's Real*.

Talking about Aldona, which Dias has called home for two years now, "It's a pretty little village, it's nice and peaceful and quiet. There's no traffic." Moving from Bengaluru to Aldona, the artiste found impetus to gather his oldest and newest songs and put out 10 of them as part of the album. Kochi-origin Dias recently returned to Bengaluru to launch the album at venue space The Raft, where he performed with a seven-member band.

Among the best received songs of the night were the likes of 'Time Machine', a song that sums up the power of simple but emotive songwriting. It is a perspective-gaining tune about Dias' relationship with his past and present. It was written about five years ago. "When I'd written it, I always knew that this was going to be a front-facing song that would stand out whenever I put a solo album out. It's relatable."

The album was initially born out of demos recorded by Dias at home and then sent over to Chennai-based Toby Joseph, who took on production duties. Starting out on acoustic guitar, these were songs that Dias says did not fit the mould for Mad Orange Fireworks.

The likes of bassist Carl Fernandes, synth artist Alok Merwin and drummer David Joseph feature across *Show Me What's Real*, which pulls in directions that can remind you of the Beatles, The Police, Simon & Garfunkel and others. The oldest song is 'Once I Find You', which was written in 2003, while the more recent ones include 'The Fruit', featuring fellow singer-songwriter (and star playback singer in South Indian cinema songs) Shakthisree Gopalan.

Road not taken Michael Dias. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> The title track 'Show Me What's Real' is like my Eagles song. That's the influence for that one.
> **MICHAEL DIAS**
> Singer Songwriter

Dias talks about how each song shows off a different influence. "The title track 'Show Me What's Real' is like my Eagles song. That's the influence for that one. 'I Can't Go On', I call it my Bon Jovi song, because I felt like that's where the sound came from. 'I Will Let You Go' is a little bit of Duran Duran kind of sound," the artiste explains. If he had to point to one overarching influence, it's that of Sting, perhaps best heard on 'Chai Song'.

After performing with a band to launch the album, Dias says he is no longer keen on playing alone on stage. "I just don't feel like performing solo anymore. It's empty and boring. At the same time, I would love to hopefully get to play music festivals with this set, but it's a big band that I need to pull this off with."

Promoting and marketing his music has often been hit and miss for Dias, whether it's with his solo material or with Mad Orange Fireworks. He has teamed up with music company Neon Culture this time to change things around; they have helped him generate a bit of buzz in the large halls that is the Indian independent music circuit.

Experience the Far East The event will give an insight into Japanese cuisine. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A taste of Japan

If you have always wanted to learn more about saké aka Japanese rice wine, this upcoming event in the city blends a unique tasting experience along with storytelling.

Priya Raaj of Raisin Apart, a company known for crafting experiential wine events, is all set to host Kanpai, a toast to Japan, wherein she will "unveil the tales behind each bottle, crafting an exceptional journey into the origins of every sip."

Scheduled to take place at the Oberoi Bengaluru, the event promises a fusion of fashion, art, and food.

"Guests can experience five unique sakés, including Ozeki Tokubetsu Junmai Sake Yamadanishiki, and Vitality Dressy Plum Sake, thoughtfully paired with each dish," says Priya, adding how the evening will also blend elements of fashion and art.

While fashion designers Anjali Sharma and Bassam Osman will host a talk, in the food section, chef Hitesh Pant from Oberoi will curate a five-course meal based on the principles of Washoku, that lays an emphasis on achieving balance and harmony in every aspect of the meal. Expect hand-rolled sushi, a nigiri platter, sea bass with yuzu butter sauce, and gochujang glazed duck.

On November 24 at The Oberoi, Bengaluru. 7 pm onwards. ₹8,500 per person. For details, call 98400 62712.

KCR says 'Bangaru Telangana' will make farmers self-reliant

Farmers will become independent with ongoing schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, says Telangana Chief Minister; he addresses election rallies at Tandur, Kodangal, Mahabubnagar and Parigi

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

'Bangaru Telangana' is about achieving 100% literacy, availability of good healthcare facilities in public sector, irrigation facility to every acre of arable land and farmers becoming self-reliant in meeting investment for cultivation of crops without borrowing money from banks or moneylenders, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao said on Wednesday.

Poll talk: Telangana CM K. Chandrashekhar Rao addressing a public meeting at Parigi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He stated that the farming community would become self-reliant in the next 10 to 15 years with ongoing schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, water for irrigation, 24X7 free power, procurement of the produce and others.

Speaking at the election rallies at Tandur, Kodangal, Mahabubnagar and Parigi in support of BRS candidates, he cautioned people, particularly farmers, to think and vote.

The Congress had been making it clear that it would scrap Dharani, the online land records management system. Besides, the party was also speaking that three-hour supply would be enough for most of the farmers as a 10 HP motor would pump water to irrigate an acre of land in an hour without specifying who would bear the cost of such high capacity motors, Mr. Rao said.

'Cong. not scared by ED action against *National Herald*'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has said that the Congress will not be scared of the ruling BJP and will fight it out against the Enforcement Directorate attaching the assets of party-run *National Herald*.

Addressing an election rally in Alampur in Jogulamba Gadwal district of Telangana on Wednesday, Mr. Kharge targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the ED action. "They are determined to close down a newspaper that was started by former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," he said.

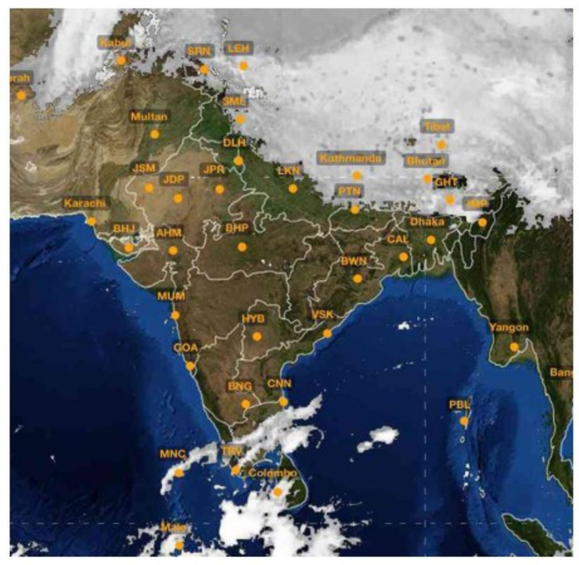
"They have seized the property of the Congress party... It was the voice of freedom fighters." By closing down the newspaper, Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah wanted to scare the people of Telangana and ensure voting for the BJP and the BRS, Mr. Kharge alleged.

"We will never be scared and will fight till the end," Mr. Kharge said.

The ED had attached immovable assets and equity shares worth about ₹752 crore as part of probe into the money laundering case against the *National Herald* newspaper and companies linked to it.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.2	18.8	Kozhikode	—	33.6	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.7	18.3	Kurnool	—	33.0	23.6
Aizawl	0.2	26.5	14.4	Lucknow	—	27.1	13.7
Allahabad	—	29.1	14.6	Madurai	10	32.0	25.0
Bengaluru	—	28.3	21.1	Mangaluru	—	32.4	24.6
Bhopal	—	30.5	15.6	Mumbai	—	35.5	22.8
Bhubaneswar	—	30.5	20.1	Mysuru	—	31.2	24.4
Chandigarh	—	25.7	12.0	New Delhi	—	25.6	10.7
Chennai	17	28.2	24.6	Patna	—	28.0	16.6
Coimbatore	9	31.1	23.4	Port Blair	—	30.6	23.9
Dehradun	—	26.4	9.9	Puducherry	16	27.1	25.0
Gangtok	—	17.4	12.1	Pune	—	31.4	16.8
Goa	—	35.0	24.5	Raipur	—	31.0	18.9
Guwahati	—	29.6	18.4	Ranchi	—	26.2	14.1
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Shillong	—	17.3	10.2
Hyderabad	—	31.7	21.1	Shimla	—	23.3	10.2
Imphal	—	25.7	15.1	Srinagar	—	13.1	-1.8
Jaipur	—	26.0	13.3	Thiruvananthapuram	0.5	32.0	25.0
Kochi	22.6	31.0	24.8	Tiruchi	7	29.5	25.0
Kohima	—	19.8	9.8	Vijayawada	—	27.7	24.4
Kolkata	—	29.0	20.3	Visakhapatnam	0.1	30.6	24.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.11	.14	286	199	
Bengaluru	7	32	.24	117	82	
Chennai	.15	.54	.45	54	51	
Delhi	9	.66	.70	421	405	
Hyderabad	3	.29	.53	68	102	
Kolkata	.15	.72	.41	245	156	
Lucknow	5	.47	104	300	190	
Mumbai	.18	.61	.19	218	175	
Pune	124	192	111	231	131	
Visakhapatnam	8	.36	.39	70	85	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 398 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Naidu's bail pleas in liquor, sand mining cases adjourned

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court adjourned the anticipatory bail petitions filed by former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the liquor and sand mining cases to November 23 and 24 respectively.

Advocates representing Mr. Naidu completed their arguments in both the cases. They insisted that the Governor's assent was not obtained for prosecuting the former Chief Minister, as per Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1981, and that the cases were politically motivated. To supply sand free of cost was a policy decision that could not be faulted, they observed.

Advocate-General S. Sriram will be arguing for the CID in this case on November 24. The advocates of CID alleged that the excise policy was amended to benefit those close to Mr. Naidu.

'BJP will not allow Zameer Ahmed Khan to attend Belagavi session'

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not allow Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minority Welfare B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan to take part in the forthcoming Belagavi legislature session for his comments denigrating the post of the Assembly Speaker, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said in Mangaluru on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Vijayendra said the Minister, during his speech in an election campaign in Telangana, brought a communal angle to the selection of U.T. Khader as the Speaker. "This is really unfortunate. Our heads should hang in shame for the way the Minister has degraded the post of the Speaker".

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra at a press meet in Mangaluru on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Criticising Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for being silent on Mr. Khan's statement, Mr. Vijayendra said the Congress should ask him to resign from the Cabinet for degrading the Constitutional post.

"The BJP will not sit silent on this issue. We will not allow him (Mr. Khan) to take part in the Belgavi session," he said.

The party will fight it out in the two Houses and also hold protest outside demanding action against the Minister, he said.

Field day

Women farmers preparing *njattady* (seedlings) before transplanting paddy saplings at Kodumbu near Palakkad in Kerala. Farmers of the district, who need water to irrigate the second crop of paddy, are staring at a water crisis due to the low water level in dams. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Karnataka High Court refuses to quash cheating case against district judge post aspirant

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The term "property" used in Section 415 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to define the offence of cheating cannot be rendered an attenuated view as it would also mean the "service or employment" that a candidate would join as it provides "security of tenure, which is valuable", the High Court of Karnataka has said.

Valuable security

"Therefore, the valuable security is akin to property... and in cases where fraud and misrepresentation form the foundation for securing employment can be brought under the umbrella of the ingredients of cheating under Section 415 of the IPC," the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while dismissing a petition filed by one Palaksha S.S., an advocate. The petitioner had questioned the registration of a cheating case and the chargesheet against him for giving false information to the selection committee when he applied for the post of district judge in 2019.

It was argued on behalf of the petitioner that the term "property" as mentioned in Section 415 of the IPC, would "mean property and nothing else".

The aspirant has been booked for giving false information to the selection committee when he applied for the post in 2019

Declining to accept this contention, the court said, "the term 'property' cannot be rendered an attenuated view, as in the peculiar facts of the case property would mean, the service that the petitioner would have entered into, as it provides security of tenure which is valuable".

The petitioner had entered the word 'no' in response to the question, 'whether the applicant is/was involved in any civil/criminal/quasi-judicial proceedings in any capacity' in the online application. He was one of three persons shortlisted for appointment to the post of district judge as he cleared both the preliminary and main exams, and the interview.

However, the selection committee, before he was appointed to the post, received an anonymous complaint that he was facing nine criminal cases. This had resulted in issuance of notice to him.

In response to the notice, he had claimed that it was due to "human error" as he had misread the word 'was' in the online application, and claimed that eight criminal cases were either settled or resulted in acquittal and only the case related to divorce with his wife was pending when he applied for the post.

The court said that the petitioner cannot feign ignorance of the cases in which he was involved or claim that he could not understand the query in the application, as he had 13 years of practice as an advocate when he applied for the post.

Also, the application was clearly worded for disclosing both the present and past cases, the court said.

Unknown person booked for poisoning pet cats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rajarajeshwarinagar police registered a case against an unidentified woman for poisoning 11 cats belonging to a businessman at an apartment on Friday.

Based on the complaint filed by Shyamveer Sharma, the police have registered a first information report charging the unknown person under Section 428 (mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming, or rendering useless any animal).

In his complaint, Mr. Sharma said that he had 11 cats, including seven kittens.

Malayalam author P. Valsala, who sketched tribal life, passes away at 85

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Award-winning Malayalam writer P. Valsala, 85, passed away at a private hospital in Kozhikode on Tuesday night. Doctors attributed the cause of death to cardiac failure.

Valsala was a significant Malayalam novelist of her generation and one of the early female writers to make a mark. Her masterpiece, *Nellu*, introduced to the readers a world that they were not familiar with: the lives of tribal people in Wayanad.

The novel had caught the attention of readers when it was serialised in the magazine *Kunkumam* five decades ago. She followed it up with *Agneyam*, which she wrote after her unexpected meeting with Naxal Varghese on the banks of the Kalindi river one evening. *Agneyam*, and then years later, *Koomankolli* would form a trilogy of novels set in Wayanad.

Wayanad was indeed a second home to Valsala who belonged very much to Kozhikode. She was fascinated by the hilly district after listening to her father speak about it. She felt she could write a novel set in Wayanad; she lived there and researched the lives of the much-exploited tribal people.

Ramu Kariat, the national award-winning film director adapted *Nellu* for the screen.

Her other novels include *Nizhalurangunna Vazhikal*, which won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, *Venal, Palayam, Gauthaman, Kanal,* and *Melppalam*.

P. Valsala

Several short stories

She also wrote several short stories. Two years ago, she was awarded the Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, Kerala's highest literary honour.

"Valsala had fine craft as a writer," said noted writer C.V. Balakrishnan. "She was very dedicated."

She needed to, as she once said, since it was not easy for a woman – and that too a working woman, a teacher – to be a writer. "For it is assumed that the first duty of a woman is to take care of the family," Valsala had said. "I was determined to be a writer, so I managed my time well and ensured that I had enough time to write."

The writer's last rites will be performed at the corporation crematorium at West Hill in Kozhikode city on Friday.

HC seeks opinion of Women and Child Dept. on welfare of girl to be returned by adoptive parents

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has sought the opinion of the Department of Women and Child Development on the welfare measures to be prescribed for a girl whom her adoptive parents wanted to return as she failed to get along with them.

The parents had recently moved the Kerala High Court seeking directions to return the child, whom they had adopted a few years ago.

Justice Devan Ramachandran said the court was unsure on how it could order her protection and safety if she resides outside the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

The parents had moved the Kerala High Court seeking directions to return the child.

The protection of the child was a matter of concern for the court, said the judge.

The court asked advocate Parvathi Menon to assist it as an *amicus curiae* in the case.

Report submitted

Vidya Kuriakose, Government Pleader, submitted a report to the District Legal Services Authority, stating that the 18-year-old girl desired to return to her parental State, Punjab, as she felt abandoned by her parents.

S. Nirmal, counsel for the adoptive parents, informed the court that the couple had tried their best to adjust with their adopted daughter. However, the girl, he argued, was unable to identify herself as their child. The court will consider the case later.

Unheeded advice

The time has come for the Governor's role to be reconsidered

Ongoing proceedings before the Supreme Court raise concerns about the conduct of some Governors. The key issue that has forced State governments to approach the court for redress is the perverse manner in which incumbents in Raj Bhavan have used the absence of a time-frame for granting assent to Bills to harass and frustrate elected regimes. When the court raised the question, "What was the Governor doing for three years?" with respect to the Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, it was underscoring the fact that he disposed of pending Bills only after the court's observations about the delay in an earlier hearing. The Governor's reluctance to act until an aggrieved government approached the court seems deliberate. The hearing was marked by some questions and answers about the implications of the Governor's action in withholding his assent to 10 Bills, and the response of the State Assembly in passing the Bills for a second time. Preliminary observations by the court suggest that the scheme of Article 200 of the Constitution, which deals with the presentation of Bills passed by the legislature to the Governor for assent, will come under a good deal of scrutiny in this matter. With the court noting that the Governor cannot refuse assent to the re-enacted Bills, the present legislative impasse can be given a quick resolution if Mr. Ravi acts on the observation. However, the matter should not end there.

The larger issue requires a clear enunciation of the law. The tenor of Constituent Assembly debates indicates that it intended to make the power of granting or withholding assent to Bills, or even returning them for reconsideration, exercisable solely on the advice of the Council of Ministers. However, in practice, many Governors have acted on their own, especially in reserving Bills for the President's consideration. The Supreme Court must now come up with an authoritative decision so that uncooperative Governors do not use such grey areas to their advantage. It must also be clarified whether 'withholding assent' is a final act of rejection of a Bill or it needs a follow-up action in the form of returning the Bill with a message for reconsideration by the House, as stated in the first proviso to Article 200. The proviso bars Governors from withholding assent to any Bill they had returned for reconsideration and has been adopted again by the legislature. The issue has also highlighted constitutional ambiguities on the role of Governors. The 'aid and advice' clause that is at the core of parliamentary democracy is somewhat undermined by clauses that allow Governors to give themselves discretion they were never meant to have. Such provisions need wholesome reconsideration.

Glimmer of hope

The pause in war after the hostage release deal gives peace a chance

The Israel-Hamas deal to release hostages and Palestinian prisoners in return for a pause in fighting offers a much-needed humanitarian relief to the 2.3 million people of the Gaza Strip who have been living in unspeakable misery since October 7. According to the deal, clinched in talks mediated by Qatar, Hamas will release 50 civilian hostages while Israel will release 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will also halt fighting for four days. The Israeli government has stated that if Hamas releases more hostages, the pause in fighting could be extended, offering a glimmer of hope for securing a more sustained ceasefire. Hamas captured about 240 hostages during its October 7 cross-border attack in Israel, in which at least 1,200 people were killed. When Israel launched its counter-attack the same day, it promised to "crush Hamas", eliminate security threats from Gaza for good, and free the hostages. In the past six weeks, Israeli attacks have turned Gaza into a graveyard, killing at least 13,000 Palestinians, a vast majority of them women and children. But Israel simultaneously began indirect talks with Hamas seeking to free hostages, which resulted in the current deal.

But this is not enough. What the people of Gaza, who have been bombed, shelled, displaced, and denied essential supplies such as food, fuel and medicines, immediately want is a lasting ceasefire. Israel initially refused to have any talks with "Hamas terrorists" and promised to dismantle the Islamist militant group. Israel's anger was understandable given the horrors unleashed by Hamas. But in its response, a vengeful Israel is collectively punishing the people of Gaza. Several Israeli Ministers have issued dangerous and repugnant statements, from nuclear threats to welcoming epidemics in southern Gaza. But after six weeks of fighting, Israel is far from achieving its own declared objectives, which raises questions about the effectiveness of its military strategy. It stormed Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest medical facility, alleging that a Hamas command centre was located beneath it. More than a week since, Israel is yet to produce any credible evidence to back this claim. But the fact that Israel and Hamas have reached a deal suggests that both sides are ready to engage with each other even amidst high decibel propaganda and bloody fighting. They should build on the momentum generated by the deal and extend the pause into a full-fledged ceasefire. That is the only way to release all the hostages, provide lasting relief to the Palestinians, and calm spiralling tensions in West Asia.

Listen to the people, not the numbers

Arun Maira

is the author of 'Shaping the Future: How to Be, Think, and Act in the New World'

The Indian economy has an incomes problem, not a growth problem. Incomes are not growing sufficiently or sustainably for very large numbers of people. Even though overall GDP growth is good, there is increasing pressure for reservations of jobs for all "economically weaker" sections regardless of caste or religion.

Economists on both sides, for the government and those against it, are debating whether the economy is creating enough jobs and are questioning the veracity of the government's data. Those against the government also want to show that the problem of growth with insufficient jobs has been created by the policies of the present government and not the previous one. They are like Sheikh Chilli, who was looking for his lost keys under the lamp, rather than in the darkness where he lost them. The data is what they can see, but it cannot explain the problem, and will not point to the right solutions.

The U.S. economy

The U.S. economy seems to be doing well according to its headline economic numbers. Growth is good and employment numbers have been improving. Yet, polls show that a large majority of U.S. citizens are dissatisfied with the state of their economy. This has become a major issue before the presidential elections, scheduled for next November. The U.S. President even walked with striking autoworkers demanding a fair deal from their employers. U.S. statistics of growth and employment, whose veracity no one doubts, are not measuring what really matters to common citizens. Workers want a fair deal and adequate and secure incomes to cope with inflation. The President agreed with the workers that CEOs of auto companies were paying themselves far too much while asking workers to tighten their belts to improve the competitiveness of U.S. companies.

The process of policymaking must begin with listening to those who have not been given much value in the present economic paradigm

AFP

Jobs that are not 'good'

The overall problem of incomes in India, according to economists, is that insufficient numbers have moved out of agriculture into manufacturing. This has been the historical pattern for sustainable growth in all countries, including the U.S. a hundred years ago, and China more recently. India's policymakers thought they had found a short-cut in the 1990s, directly from agriculture to services, with the boost in the growth of exportable Information Technology services. The short-cut has ended in a cul-de-sac. There is very little room in high-end services to absorb the large numbers of young Indians in need of jobs. Moreover, these jobs require levels of education that people in rural areas do not have. Therefore, when they move out of agriculture, they need work that fits their present abilities, and puts them onto a ladder that they can climb. They need jobs where they can learn higher skills and earn more. Labour-intensive manufacturing, services, and construction provide them the first step. The millions of Indians who have moved out of agriculture in the last three decades moved into such jobs.

The problem is that the jobs they have, irrespective of the sector, are not "good" jobs: they do not pay enough, they are temporary or on short contracts, and they do not provide social security or assistance to develop further skills. In fact, even in large, modern, manufacturing enterprises, workers are employed through contractors to provide employers with "flexibility" to reduce costs. Contract workers are paid much less than regular workers. They have insecure employment and are not assisted to develop higher skills.

The world is at a turning point. New ideas of economics are required to create a more environmentally sustainable and socially harmonious future before it is too late. Statistics of growth and employment measure what we used to think should be measured. New concepts of "work" are required; also new designs of enterprises in which the work is done; as well as new evaluations of the social and economic relationships between participants in these enterprises. The drive for green, organic, and "local" to reduce carbon emissions and improve care of the environment will make small enterprises beautiful again. "Economies of scope" will determine the viability of enterprises rather than "economies of scale". Denser, local, economic webs will develop, rather than long, global supply chains through which specialised products made on scale in different parts of the world are connecting producers with consumers in other distant parts.

The economic value in caregiving

Attention will shift towards creating genuine "social" enterprises, rather than enterprises for creating economic efficiencies and surpluses which corporate enterprises are designed for. Those who provide care, and their work of caregiving, must be valued more than economists value them today. In the present paradigm of economic growth, caregivers, traditionally women, are plucked out of families – which are a natural social enterprise – to work in factories, offices, and retail, in enterprises designed to produce monetary economic value. When economists measure women's participation in the labour force, they value only what women do in formal enterprises for money. They seem to assign no value to the "informal" work they do outside their homes to earn money, whether as domestic caregivers in others' homes or on family farms. Moreover, they are unable to see any economic value in the caregiving they provide without monetary compensation in their families and communities.

The prevalent paradigm of economic theory is distorting social organisations, which families are, to suit the requirements of corporations, which are formal economic organisations. Thus, the money-measured economy (GDP) grows, while the care that humans can and should give each other reduces. Measurements of economic growth and employment must not be mired any longer in 20th-century concepts of economic growth. They must be reformed to reflect forms of work and enterprises we want more of in the future.

For this paradigm shift, the process of policymaking must begin with listening to those who have not been given much value in the present economic paradigm: to workers, small-holding farmers, small entrepreneurs, and women. Presently, their views are over-ruled by those who have power in the present paradigm: experts in economics, large financial institutions, and large business corporations. The lesson for policymakers is this. Don't count on historical statistics to guide good policy for the future: listen to the people and what matters to them.

Reporting animal cruelty makes children safer

Apoorva

is the Founder of Animal Law & Policy Network, an independent think tank

Sonia Shad

is an animal protection lawyer

Child abuse is grave and rampant in India. In 2007, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development published the largest empirical study about the incidence of child abuse in India. The study specifically examined the prevalence of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and girl child neglect in India. It found that two out of every three children were physically abused, over half the children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse, and every second child reported facing emotional abuse. Despite these troubling statistics, the factors contributing to child abuse remain unaddressed.

Child abuse in India has been attributed to the structure and size of the family, lack of effective implementation of law, poverty, illiteracy, and even cultural factors. However, one crucial element that has been missing from the discourse on child protection in India is the link between victims of child abuse and animal cruelty, which we discuss here.

Animal cruelty and child abuse

The link between animal cruelty and human violence first came to light in 1751 with William Hogarth's Four Stages of Cruelty. Since then, there have been a plethora of studies highlighting this undeniable link. A 1980 pilot study conducted in England found evidence that suggested that children are at risk of abuse or neglect in households that abuse their family pet. According to the study, out of the 23 families that had a history of animal abuse, 83% had been identified by human social service agencies as having children at risk of abuse or neglect. A different study of 53 families in which child abuse had occurred, carried out in New Jersey (U.S.), in 1983, found that animal abuse and child abuse co-occurred in 88% of the cases.

In a 2019 study on homes with interpersonal violence in the U.S., it was found that in 12.3% of the cases, threats and violence towards animals are used as a means to coerce children into compliance so that they do not report the abuser. As per the study, since animals are threatened to result in compliance of the child, some of this violence is done without the knowledge of other caregivers, and children are reluctant to discuss the animal abuse for fear of what might happen to the animal or themselves.

Both human and animal victims of crime are prone to victimisation by the same perpetrator

Easier to detect

Further, in many cases, animal abuse is easier to detect than child abuse and is also usually easier for victims of domestic violence (including children) to report. Early identifications of homes with animal abuse may save other human victims encountering abuse. This can also serve as circumstantial evidence in custody and child abuse hearings as it is difficult for children to provide detailed accounts of their own abuse.

There is a strong link between animal cruelty and child abuse and there is an urgent need to investigate it further in the Indian context. Even though law enforcement agencies in other countries have devoted resources to studying the co-occurrence of animal cruelty with other forms of violent crimes, especially crimes against children, there is no study that empirically assesses this link in India.

Enforcing anti-cruelty laws

In fact, the National Crime Records Bureau does not even collect data on offences registered and prosecuted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. As studies in other countries have shown, the collection and aggregation of this data can prove to be a significant tool for law enforcement agencies to understand how different crimes overlap, and prevent the occurrence of these crimes.

Poor enforcement of anti-cruelty laws therefore not only harms animals, but also human victims of violence. Reporting animal abuse and consistently enforcing anti-cruelty laws can act as a deterrent for further acts of violence against not only animals but also humans. It is therefore imperative to report, register and prosecute cases involving animal cruelty.

The link shows us that both human and animal victims of crime are prone to victimisation by the same perpetrator. There is an opportunity for stakeholders in the child protection and animal protection movements to collaborate to meet their collective objective of reducing abuse.

Reporting and prosecuting animal abuse is not just about saving animals; it is about protecting our children from violence and securing a brighter future for them. Understanding this important link can stop the cycle of violence at its source and help make our children safer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End of the tunnel

It is wonderful that visuals of the trapped workers are emerging ("First visuals of 41 persons trapped in tunnel emerge," Nov. 22). At a time like this, the Opposition must come in support of the government instead of being needlessly critical about the efforts being made.

K.V. Raghuram
Wayanad

This incident raises concerns about the safety of infrastructure in the Himalayan region. Nature sends timely warning signals in the form of landslides, floods and heat waves, but we don't seem prepared to learn lessons.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

Death of a visionary

Dr. S.S. Badrinath was a visionary in the truest sense ("Tributes pour in for eye surgeon S.S. Badrinath," Nov. 22). Sankara Nethralaya has been the go-to destination for patients who have eye problems. Dr. Badrinath should be given credit for attending to politicians and businessmen on the one hand and providing affordable and accessible eye care on the other. Forty per cent of surgeries in Sankara Nethralaya are reportedly provided free of cost for poor patients.

Bal Govind
Noida

I am a regular patient at Sankara Nethralaya. I have interacted with fellow patients for over 20 years. I have met many people who have come to the institution from Qatar, Kuwait, and Bangladesh, to name a few countries. Such is the reputation of Dr. Badrinath and the institution he built.

Jainulabdeen
Chennai

When so many Indians go abroad to earn money as doctors, it is noteworthy that Dr. Badrinath came back to Chennai to establish a world-class institution.

A.J.Rangarajan
Chennai

I am indebted to Dr. Badrinath for saving the vision of my late father who was his teacher at the Ramakrishna Mission High School. Dr. Badrinath operated on my father who had chronic cataract in the early eighties without charging a rupee. When he was asked to accept a fee, the doctor told my father, "You had opened my eyes as my teacher when I was a boy. Now, I have opened yours as a doctor."

M.R. Anand
Vrindavan

Out yet again

The release of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh provides ample proof that some criminals, especially high-profile ones, and some politicians enjoy a cordial relationship ("Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahi, Singh gets three-week furlough," Nov. 21). It can't be a coincidence that the Dera chief, who once had considerable influence over a large section of people, has been allowed to leave prison on the eve of elections. But then, how do we de-link criminals from politics when Parliament and State Legislatures have so many politicians with criminal backgrounds?

Avinash Godboley
Dewas

Unwarranted remark

Rahul Gandhi's comments are unwarranted and in bad taste ("Rahul's 'panauti' remarks against Modi are shameful and disgraceful,'" says BJP, Nov. 22). Previous comments by the Congress against the Prime Minister also boomeranged on the party. While constructive criticism of the functioning of the ruling dispensation and its leaders is par for the course and the responsibility of the Opposition, decency, decorum and political propriety cannot be transgressed in the public space. This holds true for those on both sides of the political divide.

B. Suresh Kumar
Coimbatore

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Same-sex couples: A judge to the rescue

Sriram Panchu
is a senior advocate.

Vikas Muralidharan
is a lecturer at Sai University.

Justice Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court has innovated yet again. On November 17, 2023, in *Sushma vs Commissioner of Police*, he tasked the State government with working out a "Deed of Familial Association" which would provide legal status to relationships between same-sex couples and other LGBTQIA+ couples. This order is truly trendsetting in the light of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Supriyo vs Union of India* wherein the Supreme Court refused to recognise the right to marry, or even the right to civil unions, of same-sex couples.

While the SC Bench in *Supriyo* was unanimous, sadly, in holding that there was no fundamental right to marry, there was a difference in the majority and minority opinions when it came to the question of civil unions. While all the judges paid eloquent lip service to the rights of queer couples, the action was a rather different story. The minority endorsed recognition of a bouquet of entitlements but failed to carry the matter further by spelling out rights and giving focused directions. The majority wiped out even this timid advance and went into wholesale retreat by abandoning the field and leaving same-sex couples to the mercy of the government and the legislature, whose policy on this matter is clear. How an avowedly, and loudly, liberal and progressive Court can become so retrograde is a question rich for enquiry.

Against the backdrop of gloom and despondency, Justice Venkatesh shines not just a candle but a strong beacon lamp. What he has done is nothing short of genius. In law school, we were taught the doctrines of Maine and Graveson that the law moved from status to contract, thence to statute. Since the SC has declared that statute, i.e. the Constitution and marriage laws, cannot be invoked, this Judge has adroitly shifted from the forward line to the midfield and taken possession of the ball of contract. With this, he has fashioned the concept of a Deed (basically agreement) of Familial Association. Into this Deed, he conceptualises the inclusion of rights and protections for them against harassment and violence, and discrimination in matters of employment, housing and assimilation in society. The State government is directed to put this into effect. The analogy of a football game is that while star-studded forwards bungle five easy goals, a determined half-back boots the ball from 50 yards out into the corner of the goalkeeper's net.

Civil unions have been recognised in a few countries across all continents. Primarily created to provide recognition to same-sex couples, they refer to a legal arrangement wherein the benefits and entitlements arising from the relationship are extended to couples. This provides legal and social validity to queer couples who can now proclaim and celebrate their relationship in the face of an intolerant society and thus protect them from interference either from the State or others in society. It also stands as documentary "proof" of their relationship which would help couples in obtaining various benefits and entitlements that would previously be impossible.

This would not amount to creating a new legal institution of marriage, but a procedure to register such a contract would mean that "the State will be able to give its stamp of approval to persons, who are in a relationship in the community and to a great extent, this will enhance the status of such persons in the Society". They will "... have protection to live in society without being disturbed or harassed". Bravo!

So, what should the Tamil Nadu Government do now? At a minimum, establish the framework to recognise such relationships through registrations of such Deeds. However, much more is possible. The State government could enact legislation creating the institution of Civil Unions and accord such status to same-sex couples; the Supreme Court's rationale is that this is the business of the legislature. Even more laws relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, succession, minors, adoption etc., are all present in the Concurrent List under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, thereby giving powers to the State to legislate on the same. Peculiar to Tamil Nadu is another constitutional hazard in the person of its Governor, R.N. Ravi, who imagines that his antiquarian office calls the shots in a democratic Republic; hopefully, he will be straightened out by the Supreme Court soon.

Tamil Nadu has long been known for being progressive. The State can add another feather to its cap and shine as a trendsetter that respects and recognises the inherent principles of self-respect, equality and social justice.

What is remarkable about this order is that it is issued in the wake of a disastrous Supreme Court judgement which cribbed, crabbed, confined and worse, decimated hopes of equality and equal treatment before law that members of the LGBTQIA community may have harboured. With one stroke, this High Court Judge has created hope. He has worked change into the interstices of law (remember Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. famously said "legal progress is often secreted in the interstices of legal procedure") and expertly worked his way to arrive at a principled legal conclusion as well as a perfectly enforceable order. He deserves congratulations. This also brings hope. In this country's troubled judicial history, it is frequently the High Courts that have come to the rescue. Remember, they did so brilliantly during the Emergency but were spectacularly upended by some famous names in the Supreme Court. It is heartwarming to see that our High Court judges continue to meet the challenge.

On the heels of the dismal Supreme Court decision, Judge Anand Venkatesh offers hope for LGBTQIA+ couples

A dilemma over tribal land rights

The move to allow transfer of tribal land could dilute the protections around it

STATE OF PLAY

Satyasundar Barik
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A Cabinet decision allowing tribals to transfer their land to non-tribals by way of amending the Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (By Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956 (OSATIP) triggered a massive controversy, forcing the Naveen Patnaik Government to put the two-day-old decision on hold on November 16.

The decision made on November 14 says, "a scheduled tribe person may, with the written permission of the sub-collector, make a gift or exchange for public purposes or obtain a loan by securing a mortgage in a public financial institution for agriculture, construction of residential house, higher studies of children, self-employment, business or establishment of small scale industries or transfer the same in favour of a person not belonging to scheduled tribe for the above purpose."

The permission for transferring land from tribals to non-tribals was granted with a rider that after such a transfer, the tribal seller or mortgagor should not be landless or homestead-less. The OSATIP includes strict provisions that not only prohibit the transfer of tribal lands but also criminalise any forced alienation. Additionally, it delineates mechanisms for eviction and the restoration of tribal land.

This was not the first attempt in the past 25 years to amend the OSATIP Act in order to ease tribal land transfer. In 2010, the amendment seeking permission to transfer tribal land was turned down by the President of India. Inter

Ministerial Committees and Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) on different occasions had recommended amendments for allowing tribal land transfer.

The Cabinet decision, however, evoked strong resistance from tribal communities as well as activists working on tribal rights. They said the amendment would open the floodgates as far as the transfer of tribal land in scheduled areas is concerned.

The OSATIP 1956 is acknowledged as one of the most stringent legislations aimed at safeguarding tribal interests. This Act was conceived in response to widespread reports of unchecked appropriation of tribal lands in Scheduled Areas. Instances were documented where even small parcels of tribal land were transferred to non-tribals in exchange for a bottle of local brew. For tribal communities, land holds paramount importance as it constitutes their most valuable asset. A majority of tribals lack business expertise, face challenges in transitioning to alternative livelihoods, lack access to capital for starting new ventures, and are relatively recent participants in the realm of technology.

In a draft report, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, which carried out the random study, found that land held by tribals in Odisha had decreased by 12% in the decade between 2005-06 and 2015-16. It had happened despite OSATIP being in force.

Concerned activists feared that the implementation of the amendment could have amounted to an attack on tribal identity. Tribals are traditionally inclined towards subsistence livelihoods and are not driven by the desire to amass wealth rapidly. Tribal rights activists argue that granting permission to transfer land would swiftly eliminate the essential fallback option for tribals.

The OSATIP has played a crucial role in maintaining tribal ownership in Scheduled Areas. The proposed amendment could potentially enable non-tribals, especially in southern Odisha districts, to purchase tribal lands, thereby altering the demographic landscape of Scheduled Areas.

Repeated efforts to amend the OSATIP Act over the past two decades have laid bare the class divisions within tribal communities. A smaller but ambitious segment across various tribes aims to monetise their land parcels as a means of achieving financial progress. In contrast, the majority of scheduled tribes want to retain ownership of their land.

The government aimed to convey a sense of realism with the proposed amendment by including a provision to prevent tribal sellers or mortgagors from being left without land or a homestead. However, the terms 'landless' or 'homestead-less' were not clearly defined. This lack of clarity could potentially allow a tribal individual to sell all of their land while retaining a small token piece, thus avoiding classification as landless.

Though the government has put the amendment to OSATIP on hold, Opposition political parties are demanding a complete withdrawal of the amendment.

Reasoning behind the rise in Indian Railways' AC coaches

Poor revenue from ticket sales combined with higher salary and pension costs necessitates the move

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Rebecca Rose Varghese
CHENNAI

The Data Point published on Wednesday argued that commuters may find it tough to get Sleeper and Second Class seats as they are being replaced with AC coaches. Also, given the wide gulf between ticket prices of the Sleeper and AC coaches, commuters may be forced to spend more, the article said. The arguments were made from the angle of the commuter.

On the other hand, why the Indian Railways is pushing for higher-priced AC coaches, a move that may hinder its social service obligations, merits discussion. The Indian Railways is in a tough spot financially. Unlike private concerns, the Railways cannot shy away from plying trains in uneconomic lines, nor can they increase the fare of the cheapest class too high.

Due to that the revenue generation from internal resources – such as ticket sales – made by Railways is dwindling at a faster pace. The internal revenue, which was already at a sticky wicket, was scarred further by the COVID-19 pandemic. **Chart 1** shows the Operating Ratio (OR) of the Indian Railways. It measures the amount spent to earn ₹100 by Railways.

In FY15 and FY16, the OR was around ₹90. It increased to ₹98 in the following years, only to rise to ₹107 in FY22. That meant, in FY22, the Railways spent ₹107 to earn ₹100. While this may come down again after the pandemic impact wears off, the pre-COVID figures were not impressive either.

The reason for such a high OR lies in the high losses incurred by the Railways while operating various classes of passenger service. A negative figure in **Table 2** points to losses incurred in Rs Crore, a positive figure corresponds to profits. All the classes recorded losses in the past two years. While this was due to the pandemic, even in the years before, AC 3-tier was the only class which made consistent profits. Also, the losses were progressively widening in successive years (even before the pandemic).

This validates the Railways' recent experimentation with more AC 3-tier coaches. Railway Ministry's answers in the Lok Sabha for multiple questions regarding the reduction of Sleeper coaches show that the addition of AC coaches is seen as a way to "garner additional revenue" or to at least mitigate losses.

The Railways is also facing a crisis on the expenditure front. **Chart 3** shows the % composition of the Revenue Expenditure (money spent on salaries, pension, fuel, etc.). Due to the implementation of recommendations of 7th Central Pay Commission, the share of salaries and pensions spiked in recent years. The share of pension and staff costs combined increased from 60% to 69% between FY15 and FY22. Following this, due to COVID, the internal revenue generation was also hindered.

Poor revenue generation meant the Railways had to rely on extra-budgetary resources such as funds from LIC and market borrowings to fund their capital expenditure (like new tracks and new trains). **Chart 4** shows the share of internal revenue, extra-budgetary resources (EBR) and gross budgetary support from the government (GBS) in the total revenue receipts of the Railways. The share of internal resources fell from 79% in FY15 to 48% in FY21, while reliance on EBS to raise funds rose from 5% to 42%. In FY22, due to record budget allocation for Railways, the GBS share increased again, slightly reducing dependency on EBS, but share from internal resources stayed put. A high dependency on market borrowings meant increasing interest and principal payments which would further hurt the finances.

The other side of the tracks

The charts and tables are based on data collated from the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the Indian Railway's finances

Chart 1: The chart shows the Operating Ratio of Indian Railways. It measures the amount spent to earn ₹100

Table 2: The table shows operational profits/losses incurred in ₹ Crore

Class	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
AC First Class	-127	-176	-139	-165	-249	-403	-719	-406
First Class	-70	-58	-53	-35	-39	-38	-43	-45
AC 2-tier	-496	-463	-559	-604	-908	-1,378	-2,995	-1564
AC 3-tier	+882	+898	+1,041	+739	+318	+65	-6,500	-698
AC Chair Car	-142	-6	+118	+98	+243	-182	-1,079	-473
Sleeper Class	-8,510	-8,301	-9,313	-11,003	-13,012	-16,056	-20,134	-17,038
Second Class	-7,642	-8,570	-10,025	-11,524	-13,214	-14,457	-17,641	-16,393
Ordinary Class	-11,674	-13,238	-14,648	-16,568	-19,124	-20,450	-11,438	-15,282
EMU suburban services	-4,679	-5,125	-5,324	-6,184	-6,754	-6,938	-7,799	-8,316

Chart 3: The chart shows the % composition of the Revenue Expenditure

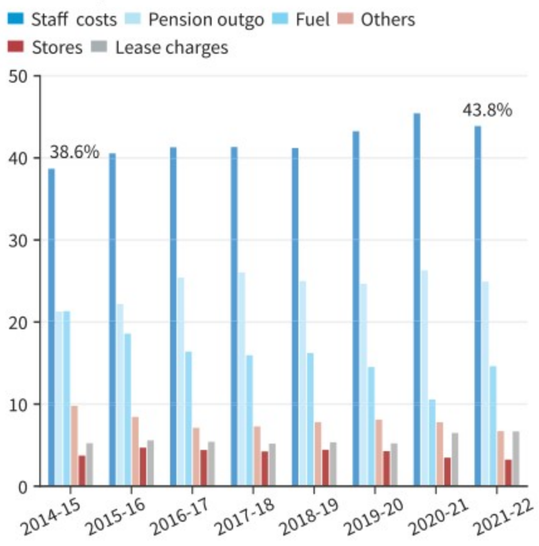
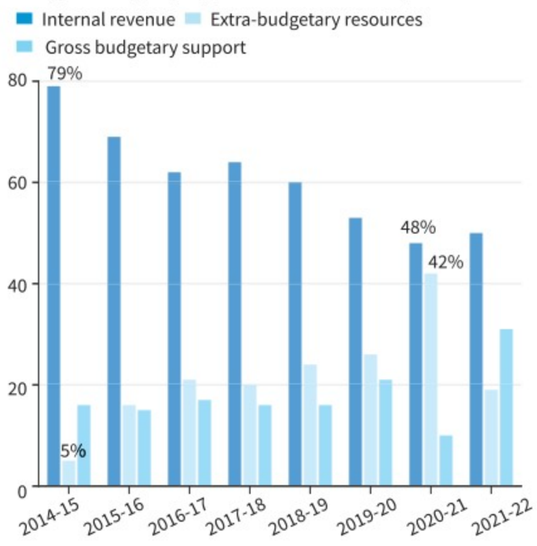


Chart 4: Share of internal revenue, extra-budgetary resources and gross budgetary support in the total Railway revenue



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 23, 1973

Centre's Proposal to Raise Standard Cloth Output

NEW DELHI, Nov. 22: The Union Government proposes to increase "very significantly" the quantity of standard cloth produced in the country to help the poor, the Commerce Minister, Mr. D. P. Chattopadhyaya, announced in the Rajya Sabha to-day. Replying to the two-day debate on the Textiles Committee (Amendment) Bill, 1973, he said the Government was considering a proposal to stamp price on every metre of cloth produced by mills so that the consumers were not cheated by retailers. The House later passed the Bill, which empowers the Government to impose a cess by way of excise duty on all textiles and textile machinery manufactured in India at a maximum rate of one per cent ad valorem. Mr. Chattopadhyaya, however, did not indicate as to what extent the quantity of standard cloth production would be increased. The Government also wanted to limit the production of standard cloth to a few varieties which were durable and easily washable, he added. The Minister said the main difficulty in stamping price on every metre of cloth was lack of stamping machines. His Ministry was considering whether these machines should be imported, or indigenously manufactured. He said a high-power committee was examining the question of equalising cotton price throughout the country. A decision on this would be taken in a few weeks.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 23, 1923

(British Official Wireless.)

Leafield (Oxford) Midnight, Nov. 22: The Conference of Ambassadors met in Paris late this afternoon when further consideration was given to the texts of the communication, which it is proposed to send to the German Government in reference to the resumption of Allied military control and the return of the ex-Crown Prince to Germany. The observations of the British Government upon the proposed drafts reached Lord Crowe, British Ambassador in Paris, this morning and it is understood that they contained suggestions for minor alterations to certain phrases in the documents. The suggestions were submitted to the Ambassadors and it is confidently hoped that they may afford a basis of agreement.

From Page One

Uttarkashi: workers in tunnel closer to freedom

Also, work was under way to create a drift inside the tunnel, with a safe channel established from 180 metres and 150 metres. The Army is mobilising box culverts for this purpose. Fabrication of frames has been completed. The work is being done by the joint team of the THDCL, Army, Coal India and NHIDCL.

The BRO has already completed construction of approach road for vertical drilling by the SJVNL and RVNL. The BRO is also building an approach road for the ONGC with geological surveys conducted by it.

Neeraj Khairwal, Secretary, Uttarakhand government, said that earlier there was communication through video with the workers trapped inside. On Wednesday, an audio communication set-up was prepared with the help of the NDRF and SDRF, in which wire, microphone and speaker were used to speak to the trapped workers.

Mr Khairwal said that the workers trapped were first made to talk to the doctor. In this sequence, all the workers are being made to talk to the doctor one by one who enquired about their health. He said that essential medicines were sent to the people trapped inside. Apart from this, basic materials such as towels, brushes and clothes were also sent.

"Keeping in mind the mental health of the workers, they are also being made to talk to a psychiatrist. All the workers trapped inside are safe," he added.

On November 12, the under-construction tunnel from Silkyara to Barkot collapsed due to debris falling on a 60-metre stretch on the Silkyara side. Immediate mobilisation of resources by the State and Central Governments ensued to rescue the 41 trapped labourers.

Initially opting for a 900-mm pipe through the debris, safety concerns led to the exploration of multiple rescue options simultaneously. The area of entrapment, measuring 8.5 metres in height and 2 kilometres in length, is the built-up portion of the tunnel, offering safety to the labourers with available electricity and water supply.

Washington warned India against plot to kill Pannun

"India takes such inputs seriously since it impinges on our own national security interests as well," Mr. Bagchi said.

Sources, however, did not clarify when exactly the discussion took place. "Issues in the context of U.S. inputs are already being examined by relevant departments," Mr. Bagchi said.

Mr. Pannun, who is a designated terrorist in India, is an American and Canadian citizen, and the legal counsel for Sikhs for Justice, a body that advocates for a separate Sikh homeland of Khalistan, carved out of India.

The *FT* report comes some two months after Canadian PM Justin Trudeau alleged that the Indian government was behind the killing of another Khalistani separatist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in British Columbia in June. New Delhi has denied any involvement in Nijjar's killing. The U.S. had worked with Canada on the investigation into Nijjar's death with top officials in the Biden administration urging New Delhi to cooperate with the probe. The *FT*'s anonymous sources did not say whether the alleged plot to kill Mr. Pannun was abandoned because Washington had warned New Delhi about the matter or whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had foiled it. The U.S also informed some of its allies about the alleged plot after PM Narendra Modi's June visit to Washington DC, as per the report.

Separately, the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has filed a sealed indictment in a New York court against one of the accused, the *FT* reported, adding that one other individual charged in the case has left the U.S. The DoJ is deliberating on whether to unseal the indictment, the report says.

India banned SFJ in 2019 and declared Mr. Pannun an "individual terrorist" in 2020. A National Investigation Agency special court had issued Non-Bailable Warrants against him in November 2022. Two of his Punjab-based properties were confiscated by the NIA in September this year.

2 Army captains killed in Rajouri operation

Official sources said the security forces spotted the terrorists at Baji Maal hamlet of Rajouri's Kalakote area around 10 a.m. on Wednesday. "An intense firefight ensued." The encounter site is dotted with trees and natural slopes. The number of terrorists could be up to three, they said.

However, the Army has not officially confirmed the number of casualties. The Army's elite Para Special Forces are also part of the operation.

The anti-militancy operation is likely to prolong into the night as the militants kept firing till late on Wednesday evening at the positions of the security forces.

Officials said a multi-layer cordon has been thrown around the encounter site to ensure that the terrorists do not flee taking advantage of the darkness.

The Pir Panjal Valley has witnessed rise in terrorist activities since 2020. This year has seen a spike in the stand-offs between the militants and the security forces. One estimate suggested 13 security personnel and 22 militants were killed in the Jammu region this year.

At G-20 meet, PM says killing of innocents unacceptable

During virtual summit, Russian President Putin says what is happening in Ukraine is undoubtedly a 'tragedy', and that conflicts elsewhere, including in the Gaza Strip, are also 'shocking'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that there is zero tolerance for terrorism and that the killings of innocents, especially children and women, are not acceptable.

Mr. Modi made these comments in his concluding remarks at the virtual G-20 summit in the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict and noted that he believed, after hearing the views of other leaders, that there was an agreement on several points, including this.

Listing the points on which there was agreement in the G-20, Mr. Modi also said the two-state solution was necessary for permanently addressing the Israel-Palestine issue. He added that diplomacy and dialogue were the only way forward to defuse such a territorial and political crisis. "We all condemn terrorism and violence," he said, calling for the restoration of regional peace and stability in West Asia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers opening remarks at the Virtual G-20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Virtually addressing the G-20 meeting hosted by India, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Moscow that what was happening in Ukraine was undoubtedly a "tragedy" and that conflicts elsewhere, including in the Gaza Strip, were also "shocking".

In an apparent reference to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Mr. Modi said human assistance should reach them quickly and safely.

The G-20 was ready to give all possible help, he said, expressing confidence that the global body would work unitedly with the spirit of "*vasudhaiva kutumbakam*" for global peace, stability and prosperity.

"It will continue to work to meet the expectations of the Global South," Mr. Modi said, expressing hope that the G-20 would move forward on the issue of reforming multilateral development banks and global governance.

Stressing that what is happening in Ukraine is "undoubtedly a tragedy" and declaring that it is necessary to "look for ways to put an end to it as soon as possible," Mr. Putin said, it was Ukraine, not Russia, that refused to negotiate and closed the way for a dialogue.

Mr. Putin had echoed similar sentiments a day earlier at a special virtual meeting of the BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – convened to discuss the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The Russian leader pointed out that the Group of Twenty (G-20) was established to find solutions to pressing international socio-economic issues and (now) such a consolidating attitude is very much in demand.

G-20 leaders welcomed the temporary ceasefire agreed upon by Israel and Hamas earlier in the day that will allow the release of 50 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza in exchange for 150 Palestinian detainees apart from the entry of humanitarian aid into the besieged territory.

India resumes e-visa services for Canadians as 'situation improves'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Justin Trudeau

India resumed e-visa services for Canadian citizens on Wednesday, sources told *The Hindu*.

The decision came two months after India suspended all visa facilities for Canadian citizens in the wake of a controversy triggered by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's remarks on Indian agents being responsible for the June 18 killing of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the situation in Canada had "relatively improved" for the Indian diplomats to perform normal duties.

"What had happened was we had temporarily suspended visa issuance because the situation in Canada made it difficult for our diplomats to go to office and do the necessary work for processing visas. As the situation there has become more secure or relatively improved, I think we have found it possible for the visa services to progressively resume," Mr. Jaishankar said during an interaction with presspersons.

India had stopped visa services at all Indian missions in Canada citing danger to the lives of Indian officials who were being targeted by Canadian nationals who had put out notices echoing Mr. Trudeau's remarks. That had gradually turned into a blanket ban on visa services for all Canadian citizens across the world. As a result no Canadian citizens could apply for Indian visa even through Indian missions in third countries.

Last month, India carried out a "review of the security situation" in its missions in Canada which was followed by Mr. Jaishankar's assurance that visa services would be resumed only if the security situation improved.

Consulate attack: NIA conducts searches in Punjab, Haryana

Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations across Punjab and Haryana in connection with the investigation into the attacks on the Indian consulate in San Francisco.

The attacks took place on March 19 and July 2, when assailants broke in and vandalised the office and attempted to harm consulate officials and set the building on fire.

The NIA has already identified certain individuals who were part of the conspiracy behind the repeated incidents of violence. They include the attackers and many of their associates, who are both Indian and foreign nationals. The agency has crowdsourced information to identify and collect information about U.S.-based entities and individuals, who were complicit.

Unravelling conspiracy

On Wednesday morning, the agency searched 14 locations in the two States in a bid to unravel the complete conspiracy behind the attacks. Searches were carried out in Moga, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Mohali, and Patiala districts of Punjab, as well as in Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar in Haryana. During the operation, the agency seized digital data containing information related to the accused, along with other incriminating documents.

"The NIA has been probing the case with the aim to identify and prosecute the attackers... and send a strong message to such anti-Indian elements," an agency statement said.

5 lakh Sahara investors to stage protest against government in Delhi in Dec.

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Around five lakh people who invested in four cooperatives run by the Sahara Group are expected to converge in Delhi in December to protest against the government's failure to refund their deposits.

A portal launched in July by Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah to refund the money of the investors, most of whom are from rural and semi-urban areas across 26 States, has failed to take off, with multiple complaints of rejection.

Abhay Dev Shukla, president of a registered body representing the Sahara investors, said on Wednesday that after the death of Sahara Group founder Subrata Roy, there was fear among the people that the unclaimed funds would be returned to the Consolidated Fund of India.

The mortal remains of Sahara Group founder Subrata Roy being taken for last rites in Lucknow on November 16. SANDEEP SAXENA

Roy passed away on November 14 in Mumbai after a prolonged illness. He and his company are facing multiple probes by investigating agencies.

Mr. Shukla said that if the government confiscated the Sahara chairperson's property, "the money of crores of investors will be lost, which cannot be tolerated at any cost".

"In the month of December, depositors from all over the country will reach Delhi's Jantar Mantar and will *gherao* (surround) the offices of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, the BJP, and the PM's Office," Mr. Shukla said.

The investors also questioned Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's condolence message on Roy's demise.

Sansar Singh, Uttar Pradesh president of the Jan Andolan Sangharsh Morcha, said there were around 1,000 cases registered against Roy in Uttar Pradesh.

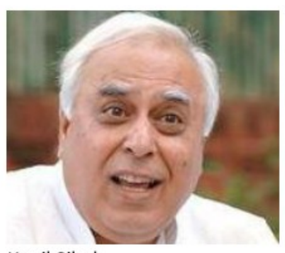
On July 18, the Central government set up the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) portal (*mocrefund.crcs.gov.in*) for small investors in four cooperatives – Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Saharayn Universal Multipurpose Society Ltd., Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. These were registered from March 2010 to January 2014, in Lucknow, Bhopal, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, respectively, under the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act. The investors received the promised returns of around 7%-11% interest on the principal amountfor the first few years. From 2017-2018 onwards, the returns stopped.

Harshness of amendments made to PMLA in 2019 shocking, says Sibal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice Bela Trivedi, one of the three judges on the Special Bench of the Supreme Court reviewing an apex court judgment of 2022 which upheld core amendments made in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), on Wednesday asked a senior Congress leader from Madhya Pradesh whether he was in the Opposition when the Act was brought in 2002.

The query from Justice Trivedi, who is part of a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, was addressed to senior advocate Kapil Sibal who was arguing for Madhya Pradesh Assembly's Leader of the Opposition Govind Singh. Mr. Sibal submitted that the amendments made to the anti-money-laundering law in 2019 had armed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with unbridled powers of summons, arrest, raids and attachment of property and made bail nearly impossible while shifting the burden of proof of innocence onto the accused rather than the prosecution.


Kapil Sibal

Mr. Sibal argued that the amendments stripped a person of his right under Article 20(3) (fundamental right against self-incrimination) of the Constitution. He said the ED could arrest a person even without informing him of the charges. This power was violative of the right to 'due process' enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. Besides, Article 22 mandated that no person can be arrested without informing him or her of the grounds of the arrest, the petitioners contended.

He said the ED could summon a person without telling him whether he was being called as a witness or an accused. Mr. Sibal further said the harshness of the amendments introduced in the 2002 law was quite shocking despite his client's 35 years' experience as an Assembly Member and Leader of Opposition.

"When this Act was passed, were you in the Opposition?" Justice Trivedi asked the senior lawyer.

Mr. Sibal responded: "That was not a fair question. I am sorry... It may have been passed by anybody, but what you have done with the Act, we never did. There was no need for that question. The Act came into force in 2005. The draconian amendments came in 2019 and they were introduced through the Finance Act."

In an aside to his fellow lawyers, he said, "We are not on politics here."

During the hearing, Mr. Sibal submitted that PMLA was under scrutiny from the Financial Action Task Force for its use on NGOs. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, retorted that the law had a provision to restore assets attached by ED, and this was a sign of the "greatness of our nation".

The government has maintained in court that PMLA was not a stand alone offence but part of a global response to money laundering and terror financing.

Gandhi family paying for its sins, says BJP on seizures by ED

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday termed the seizure of assets of the *National Herald* by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as the Gandhi family paying for its "sins".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad asked the Congress to explain how the action taken against the "rank dishonesty and loot of public property" could be described as a negation of democracy. "You think that you keep looting but no action should be taken. The family must pay for its sins, corruption and misuse of power," he said.

'Petty vendetta tactics'

After the ED issued orders for attachment of assets of the *National Herald* on Tuesday, the Congress described the act as "petty vendetta tactics". The Congress also dubbed the probe agency a "coalition partner" of the BJP.

Rejecting the Congress's claim that the ED action was an outcome of the BJP's frustration as it was losing in the current round of Assembly elections, Mr. Prasad claimed that it was the Congress which would be defeated soundly. He noted that the *National Herald* case probe began on a private complaint well before before the Modi government took office in 2014. "Both [Congress leaders] Sonia Gandhi and Rahul are facing cheating and forgery charges and are currently on bail," he noted and cited the trial court's observations about the allegations against them to make his point.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

Govt. being run by pickpockets, says Rahul

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took another jibe at the BJP and said the party-led government at the Centre was being run by "pickpockets". Mr. Gandhi said the BJP had failed to ensure an equitable distribution of wealth during its rule.

Addressing the rallies in Rajasthan, Mr. Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his industrialist friend Gautam Adani and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were picking people's pockets in the BJP rule at the Centre.

"Mr. Modi diverts [your] attention, Mr. Adani picks people's pockets and Mr. Shah wields the lathi," he said.

He said Mr. Modi was visible on the television screen round-the-clock because Mr. Adani owned most of the TV channels. "Mr. Modi gives your money to Mr. Adani... He has also made laws for [protecting] him," Mr. Gandhi said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a public meeting in Rajkheda on Wednesday. ANI

EC issues notice to Cong. over its newspaper ads

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday asked the Rajasthan Congress for an explanation on advertisements issued in newspapers which were "designed" to look like a news item.

Terming the advertisements "misleading", the poll body said they were aimed at creating confusion in the minds of voters. The notice came after the BJP on Tuesday lodged a complaint regarding an advertisement issued by the Congress, which appeared below the masthead in some dailies. A delegation led by BJP leader and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya complained that placement of the advertisement was aimed at creating an impression that it was a story or opinion "published by the newspaper agency after a survey". The notice issued to Rajasthan State Congress chief, sought an explanation by Thursday.

> In the World Cup, our team reached the final.... Modi reached there so he might get credit... PM will go if there is honour but will stay away from crisis
>
> **PRIYANKA GANDHI**
> Congress leader

Azharuddin is an unsuccessful politician: Owaisi

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday called Congress candidate for Jubilee Hills constituency, Mohammad Azharuddin, an "unsuccessful politician" and expressed hope that voters would support his party candidate there.

Ruling out a hung Assembly in Telangana, he said the Chandrashekhar Rao-led BRS will return to power. PTI

> The situation in Rajasthan is so bad that a woman MLA feels unsafe. If such is the situation, I want to ask how common people can be safe
>
> **RAJNATH SINGH**
> BJP leader

In campaign mode: Prime Minister Narendra Modi waving to supporters during a road show in Jaipur for the Rajasthan Assembly election. ANI

Whoever speaks truth in Cong. is shunted out of politics: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Raking up the history of revolt in the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the ruling party in Rajasthan was victimising Sachin Pilot because of his father Rajesh Pilot's challenge to the party leadership 26 years ago. "Whoever speaks truth in Congress is shunted out of politics," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi addressed two public meetings at Dungarpur's Sagwara and Bhilwara's Jahazpur during the last phase of campaign for the November 25 Rajasthan Assembly election. He accused the Congress of punishing the former Deputy Chief Minister after giving the same treatment to his father, who died in 2000.

"Rajesh Pilot *Ji* had once raised his voice and challenged the Congress family for good, but this family is such that after punishing him, it is bent upon punishing his son as well with a feeling of rancour," Mr. Modi said. He said whoever spoke anything in front of the Congress family, creating even a little inconvenience to it, he was as good as finished.

The Prime Minister's apparent reference was to the history of the late Rajesh Pilot losing favour with the Congress leadership after he contested against Sitaram Kesri for the party president's post in 1997. Though he lost the internal election, he later challenged Sonia Gandhi when she was set to take the baton from Mr. Kesri in 2000.

Mr. Sachin Pilot has been caught in a power tussle with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot since the Congress formed the government after its victory in the 2018 election and he was denied the top post. Mr. Modi has been referring to it during his election campaign, alleging that factionalism in Congress had adversely affected the State's development.

'Countdown has begun'

Mr. Modi said the countdown for Congress had begun, as the party was soft on rioters, criminals and terrorists and its policies had taken Rajasthan to the top position in lawlessness. "With its anti-people and anti-national decisions,the Congress is posing a big threat to the rich culture of Rajasthan," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Congress government had given a free hand to "fanatic people" with its appeasement policy. "Mr. Gehlot, who is leading Rajasthan towards destruction, does not deserve to stay in power even for a moment," he said.

Mr. Modi affirmed that his guarantees, to be implemented when the BJP comes to power, far outweighed the "false promises" of Congress. "My guarantees begin from [the point] where the hope from Congress for welfare of the poor ends," he said.

Accusing the State government of having indulged in corruption in all official works, including the recruitment of staff and implementation of schemes, Mr. Modi called upon the people to defeat the Congress in the upcoming polls in order to ensure quick implementation of the Centre's welfare schemes.

FOR FULL COVERAGE OF ASSEMBLY POLLS
Please scan the QR code or visit
https://newsth.live/elections

For Dalits, BJP and Cong. inert, BSP only a fringe party, Azad is new hope

Neither the Congress nor the BJP has ever acted against those who kill Dalits for who they are, say voters; in the past few months, Chandrashekhar Azad and his Bhim Army have consistently stood with them whenever atrocities happen and have put pressure on the authorities to act, they add

GROUND REPORT

Sobhana K. Nair
Abhinay Lakshman
BHARATPUR/PALI

There is just a difference of one word in the names of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Azad Samaj Party (ASP), but for the former though it spells its worst crisis in Rajasthan 25 years after it won its first Assembly seat in the State. While the Jatav community, especially in eastern Rajasthan, remains committed to BSP chief Mayawati, the ASP is drawing mostly the younger Dalit crowd.

Will young voters' attraction towards the ASP's flamboyant leader Chandrashekhar Azad prove fatal to the BSP is a question up in the air. As per the 2011 census, Rajasthan has a 17.8% Dalit population with 34 constituencies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and an estimated 30 to 40 where they hold the deciding vote.

The entrance to Bharatpur's Karili village has been waterlogged with an overflowing sewer for the past two years. A crowd streaming back after attending Ms. Mayawati's rally in the nearby town carefully picks its way back home, hopping over the bricks laid down to help it cross the pool of sewage. There is a palpable sense of betrayal against Joginder Singh Awana, MLA, who won the 2018 election on BSP ticket only to switch sides to the Congress. Roop Chand, 55-year-old schoolteacher, declares, "This is a straightforward case of cheating."

The small knot of men, both young and old, nod along. But will the BSP legislators make them switch their loyalties? The answer is an unequivocal 'no'. Vijay Ram, 42, a daily wage farm labourer, explains the reason. "Even if we vote for the BJP or the Congress, our vote is not counted. They believe that we vote for the BSP alone," Mr. Ram said.

On probation

And why not, he adds, after all it was Ms. Mayawati alone who gave us the self-confidence to stand up and be counted. Both Mr. Chand and Mr. Ram are from the Jatav community. The ASP, they say, is still an unknown variable. "Are they here to stay," 36-year-old Munesh Kumar wonders. Though, Mr. Azad is a familiar name, the consensus is to keep the ASP on probation this election. But there are many younger faces in the crowd who are largely silent. After the crowd disperses, they express their admiration for Mr. Azad, show off his video clips and rave about his "strong" personality. Bharatpur district has one of the largest concentrations of Dalits, coming to 21.9% of the total population.

Gaining ground: Azad Samaj Party leader Chandrashekhar Azad speaking at a rally in poll-bound Rajasthan. X/@BHIMARMYCHIEF

The BSP made its debut in Rajasthan in the 1990 Assembly election. But it was only in 1998, eight years later, that it won two seats. In the 2008 election, the party hit a high with a 7.6% vote share, winning six seats, but its legislators shifted to the Congress. In 2013, its vote share dipped to 3.4%, bringing down its tally to three seats. In 2018, the party registered a minor increase, cornering a 4% vote share but managing to win six seats. But once again, all the party legislators switched to the Congress.

This time again, the BSP is contesting 185 seats, while the ASP is contesting 42 in alliance with the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party of Jat leader Hanuman Beniwal.

About 500 km away in Pali, a similar narrative is heard. As per the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau, Pali is among the top 10 districts in terms of number of atrocities against Dalits. There is widespread disappointment with the BJP and the Congress for being inert. The BSP has not been a significant player here, but Mr. Azad holds out hope for them.

Mangilal Meghwal, former sarpanch of the Maandal village, said, "Regularly, people from the Rajpurohit community are beating us up, killing our women. Even getting an FIR registered is a task." Mr. Meghwal's village falls in the Sumerpur constituency, which has been with the BJP for the past 10 years. He is a self-confessed BJP supporter.

"Neither the Congress nor the BJP has ever really acted against those who kill us for who we are. But in the last few months, we have come to know about Chandrashekhar Azad in our village. He and his Bhim Army have consistently stood with us whenever atrocities happen and have put pressure on the authorities to act."

But when asked if this was enough to secure their support, Mr. Meghwal added, "Look, they are young and seem to be doing good. But at the end of the day, we know the chances of Azad forming the government is very low."

The appeal for Azad and his Azad Samaj Party has also spread to parts of areas such as Jhunjhunu, where traditionally, the fight has always been between the BJP and the BSP.

"This time around, tens of thousands are showing up for ASP rallies and Mayawati*ji* does not seem to be enthusing the crowds too much," said Deependra Kumar, who hails from a Dalit family in Jhunjhunu, and was in Sojat at a Congress rally on Wednesday.

Mr. Kumar added that while many households, traditionally with the BSP, were now looking towards the ASP in his hometown of Ambedkar Nagar, he expressed doubts about how many will actually convert into votes. "They might be getting the crowds, but the question is how many of these people will end up voting for them."

With KCR, Revanth battling it out, no ordinary contest in Kamareddy

Ravi Reddy
KAMAREDDY

It would have been a routine contest in the Kamareddy constituency of Telangana but for the presence of two leaders in the fray – Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and State Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy. The political battlefield in Kamareddy has been suddenly electrified with the two political heavyweights ready to take on each other in the November 30 polls. A first-timer – Katipally Venkataramana Reddy of the BJP – too is in the fray.

The BRS chief chose to contest a second seat, Kamareddy, after its five-time MLA, Gampa Goverdhan, was dropped. Once Mr. Rao chose the second constituency apart from Gajwel, Mr. Revanth Reddy threw in his hat in the ring. As a result, former Congress Minister Mohammad Ali Shabbir had to shift to the Nizamabad Urban constituency.

A keen triangular contest is in the offing with the three parties trying to win over voters in a big way. Mr. Venkataramana Reddy is single-handedly spearheading his campaign by invoking the local sentiment and targeting the two heavyweights. While the BRS says the voters are lucky to have a Chief Minister in the fray, the Congress hits back saying its candidate is a Chief Minister-in-the-making.

Poll buzz: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao addressing a public meeting in Kamareddy district. PTI

Local BRS leaders are extensively touring rural areas to drum up support. The Congress campaign is dependent on senior party leaders from the erstwhile Nizamabad district.

The town is full of party flags, while the campaign chariots of all the three parties criss-cross the streets and rural parts. Workers sporting *kanduvas* (scarves) are going around distributing pamphlets of their respective parties. After bifurcation of the district, Kamareddy became a separate district headquarters and now boasts an integrated Collectorate complex, office of the Superintendent of Police, district hospital and other facilities. Kamareddy has 2,45,822 voters – 1,18,718 men and 1,27,080 women.

Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao and Mr. Revanth Reddy have been visiting the constituency off and on for campaign and leaving the rest to the local leaders. It is here that the BJP candidate has tried to gain an advantage. Mr. Venkataramana Reddy, local people say, has been accessible and is popular. He began his political journey as ZPTC member of the Nizamabad Zilla Parishad, quit the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now BRS) and joined the YSR Congress Party of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for a brief period, being a loyalist of the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. His father, K. Raji Reddy, was a popular MLA for Kamareddy. For the past three years, he has been with the BJP.

The BJP candidate gained prominence after taking up the issue of delayed wages for Anganwadi workers and spearheaded the agitation against the Kamareddy Master Plan, which proposed merger of several fringe villages into the municipality. An uproar by the local villagers and weeks of agitation prompted the government to drop the Master Plan altogether. This issue brought a lot of goodwill to Mr.Venkataramana Reddy.

The BRS is banking on its welfare and development programmes initiated across the State and in Kamareddy too. But the anti-incumbency sentiment against the local MLA could dent its chances. Though the Congress and Mr. Revanth Reddy have been able to attract the voters, it is to be seen if that will translate into victory.

There is increasing buzz that Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao and Mr. Revanth Reddy will vacate the Kamareddy seat if the former is elected also from Gajwel and the latter from Kodangal, forcing a byelection. This issue could be a cause of concern for the BRS and the Congress.

BJP seeks EC action against Rahul for *panauti* comment

It also sought action against Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge for remarks on Modi's decisions when he was a CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday approached the Election Commission (EC) demanding action against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "*panauti*" during an election rally in Rajasthan.

Mr. Modi had attended the World Cup final in Ahmedabad, and Mr. Gandhi's remarks a day later were seen as an insinuation that the Prime Minister had jinxed the prospects of the Indian team.

A BJP delegation, including party general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal and senior leader Om Pathak, sought EC action against Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, accusing him of falsely claiming that the Prime Minister's caste had been added to Gujarat's list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) when he was the Chief Minister.

The Ghanchi caste was included on the OBC list in 1999, two years before Mr. Modi became CM, Mr. Pathak said. "We request the EC to intervene urgently by taking appropriate legal action against Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi for their continued fraudulent, baseless and abusive practice and to pass a prohibitory order against them," the BJP said.

Mr. Agarwal also attacked Mr. Gandhi, calling him a "senseless and valueless" politician, and asserted that Mr. Modi was respected by world leaders.

Mr. Agarwal said the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Home Minister Buta Singh had gone to watch the 1982 Asiad hockey final in the national capital which India lost to Pakistan 7-1. They had left the match midway after India began trailing, he alleged.

It was an insult to the team and Indira Gandhi's conduct broke the players' morale, he said adding that it was also a reason for the humiliation of goalkeeper Mir Ranjan Negi.

Mr. Negi was forced to retire and was rehabilitated as a goalkeeping coach in 1998 when the BJP was in power at the Centre and India won the Asian Games gold, he said.

INBRIEF

BJP's adds Ram temple as its profile picture on social media

The BJP has added an illustration depicting the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the date of inauguration, January 22, 2024, as its profile picture on its official account on 'X' and its official Meta page. Amit Malviya, who heads the BJP's information technology cell, said the illustration has been in place for a few days now. "In the run-up to the G-20 Summit held in New Delhi, we used images connected to that event, and now with the inauguration of the Ram Temple imminent, we have made this change," he said.

Patanjali Ayurved says its medicines clinically proven

A day after the Supreme Court warned Baba Ramdev-owned Patanjali Ayurved of imposing hefty fines if they do not withdraw misleading advertisements, the company said in a press release on Wednesday that its products have helped thousands of people free themselves from several diseases. "We humbly respect the Supreme Court of India and if we make false advertisements or propaganda, we would not have any objections if honourable court impose a fine of crores or even give us a death sentence," the statement said. On Tuesday, a top court Bench had observed while hearing a petition of the Indian Medical Association that all misleading advertisements of Patanjali have to be stopped and the court will take such infraction seriously.

DGCA imposes ₹10 lakh penalty on Air India

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for its failure to provide hotel accommodation to passengers affected due to flight delays, as well as for not compensating business class passengers on international flights who were assigned malfunctioning seats. The regulator said that the action followed inspections carried out at Delhi, Kochi, and Bengaluru in May and September.

DGCA suspends officer who accepted aircraft as bribes

The government on Wednesday suspended an officer at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Anil Gill, following allegations of bribery, which included accepting three training aircraft from flying schools and then leasing them out for ₹90 lakh each annually. "There is zero tolerance to malpractices. Any such issue will always be dealt with the strictest measures in accordance with the law," Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia said in a statement on the Government Order announcing Gill's suspension. Gill was transferred to a different department following a complaint from an anonymous whistleblower. The complaint, a copy of which was accessed by *The Hindu*, painstakingly detailed how Mr. Gill allegedly blackmailed flying training organisations with strict penalties following inspections and accidents, and demanded bribes to look the other way.

Central trade unions call for probe into tunnel collapse

They urge Centre to ratify ILO conventions on health and safety; express anguish over the failure of authorities to take responsibility for Silkyara tunnel collapse in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

NDRF members working inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

A platform of 10 Central trade unions has expressed anguish over the failure of authorities to take responsibility for the Silkyara tunnel collapse in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. Forty-one workers have been trapped in the tunnel since November 12.

In a joint statement here on Wednesday, the trade unions said accidents at workplaces exposed the weaknesses of laws with regard to the safety of workers and brought to light the violations of existing laws. They urged the Centre to withdraw the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on health and safety.

The trade unions alleged that the Centre sent a team very late to monitor the rescue operations. "The other workers are telling that the escape routes/tunnels, which are compulsory to meet such emergency situations in construction of long tunnels, were not even planned," the joint statement said. "There should be a thorough probe into the laxity at any level, right from tendering to various other stages of work of the tunnel," they said, and asked the Centre to convene the Indian Labour Conference at the earliest to address the concerns of workers.

The Construction Workers Federation of India, in a separate statement, said the accident was a result of the profit-hungry development models and policies pursued by the "neo-liberal" BJP governments.

"The law enforcement mechanism has failed in ensuring that the safety directions are followed," CWFI general secretary U. P. Joseph said.

Restore old pension scheme, BMS urges Finance Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Thousands of government employees belonging to the Government Employees National Confederation (GENC) held a rally here on Wednesday demanding restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS).

A delegation of the workers also met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and told her through a memorandum that dissatisfaction had risen among the workers over the National Pension Scheme (NPS). The GNEC is the industrial unit of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), the trade union of the RSS.

The protesting workers were mostly from the defence sector, railways, postal department, and Central government establishments such as the Archaeological Survey of India and the EPFO. BMS general secretary Ravindra Himte and GNEC general secretary Sadhu Singh were part of the delegation that met Ms. Sitharaman.

Mr. Singh said in a release that the BMS was opposed from the beginning to the decision to discontinue the OPS.

"Before January 1, 2004, the old pension scheme provided a non-contributory guarantee, ensuring that 50% of the last salary became the pension upon retirement. Additionally, the scheme was intricately linked to the price index, resulting in the receipt of dearness allowance twice a year in January and July. Government employees, who feel deprived of their rightful pension under the guise of social security, are now urgently appealing to the government of India to abolish NPS and reinstate the OPS," the BMS said in the memorandum.

It said that many State governments had brought back OPS. "This aroused hope among employees of the remaining States and the Central government that the government will think about us, but due to no announcement till now, there is disappointment and dissatisfaction."

Commission clarifies norms for foreign medical graduates

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Undergraduate Medical Education Board and the Ethics and Medical Registration Board, National Medical Commission (NMC) issued a clarification on Wednesday, specifying the provisions under which foreign medical graduates, especially students from Ukraine and the Philippines, can register, work, and study in India.

The clarification comes after various problems and representations were received from these graduates.

The NMC has said that those who have completed the medical course in foreign medical institutes (course equivalent to MBBS in India) in the offline mode, with or without one year of internship, and returned to India need to obtain provisional registration from the State Medical Council and thereafter undergo a year's compulsory rotating medical internship under the CRMI Regulation, 2021. It has also specified provisions for those who had taken a break in their final year and returned to India (owing to pandemic or war) and completed the course (including examination) in online mode only.

On medical graduates from Ukraine to continue their study from a different country (except India), the provision notes that in continuation to the earlier scheme dated September 15, 2022 namely Academic Mobility Programme, the NMC has decided to extend such scheme as a one-time measure to the FMGs returning from Ukraine. "The degree may however be awarded by the university to where they shall migrate. This option of transfer/migration/mobility shall be availed within three months from the date of issue of this public notice," the NMC said.

It said the time limit for appearing in FMG examination/NExT will be 10 years from the completion of their training/course in a foreign medical institution.

SC begins hearing on pleas against parties offering freebies during elections

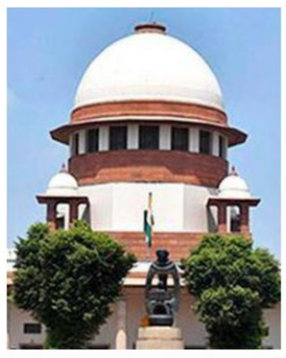
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday began hearing petitions seeking a judicial declaration that irrational freebies offered by political parties to lure voters during election time should be considered a "corrupt practice".

In October, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had sought responses from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on a plea that public funds are being misused to offer outlandish freebies ahead of Assembly elections.

The court has made its anxiety plain about parties which form the government riding a wave created by their pre-election promises of "free gifts", bleeding the State finances dry by actually trying to fulfil their "wild" promises of largesse using public money.

The *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, submitted that the court has to decide whether "giving freebies would be a corrupt practice under Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and become a ground for moving court in an election petition".



In October, a Bench had sought responses from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, for petitioners, said parties have been linking freebies to the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution, which obliges the State to aim for certain ideals in social order and governance.

He also submitted that the court should also consider an argument raised by parties that freebies ought to be considered "expenditure defrayable by the Union or a State out of its revenues" under Article 282 of the Constitution.

'Welfare cause'

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said illegitimate or discriminatory freebies were not the same as legitimate freebies given to the public for a "welfare cause". "Doing away with the debts of wilful defaulters is an illegitimate freebie. Giving benefits to a particular religious community would classify as a discriminatory freebie," he explained.

The hearing signified a shifting of stand by the court from its 2013 judgment in the *S. Subramaniam Balaji versus Tamil Nadu* case. In this judgment, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court had held that making promises in election manifestos do not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act.

SoI, private firm to create 3D maps of cities, towns

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Survey of India (SoI), historically the custodian of India's maps, has signed an agreement with a Mumbai-based private company, Genesys International, to prepare three-dimensional maps of several cities and towns.

Called 'Digital Twins,' these maps are three-dimensional representations of cities and when coupled with high-resolution images, can be used in a variety of planning applications.

The collaboration will allow Genesys to generate "three-dimensional digital twins" for major cities and towns, develop an urban 3-D data model, and allow it to "licence" geospatial data products to buyers in a "content-as-a-service" model, according to company officials.

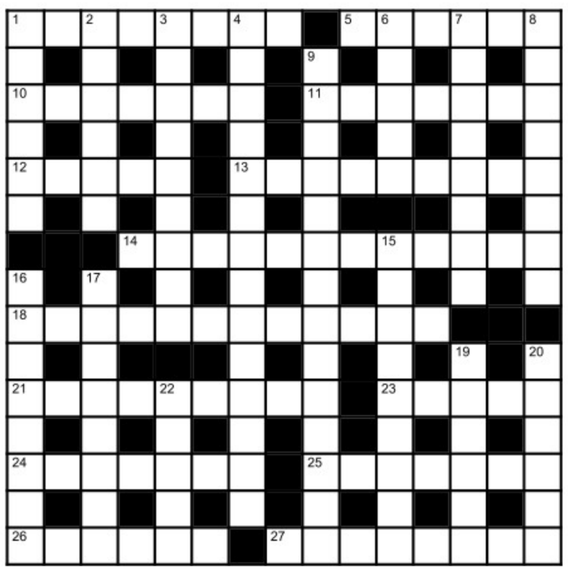
So far, the company has built digital twins of Ayodhya, the Dharavi slum cluster in Mumbai, Kochi, and Kanpurs, among other applications.

TH CROSSWORD + 14027

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Case of demonstrative bequest for committee (8)
5 Stops rebellious fool stealing object (6)
10 Run back to save guys in trouble (7)
11 Almost caught cuddling miss with love (5,2)
12 Postmodern style inspiring German artist (5)
13 Pioneer flying to Nigeria (9)
14 Craft gone with life raft not attached (4-8)
18 Immaculate beach outside best resort close to lagoon (5,3,4)
21 Container with game bird caught for prince (9)
23 Want cocaine to party (5)
24 Membranes covering spores of bush essentially found in Asian country (7)
25 Lawyer makes up a story about leading industrialist in newspapers (7)
26 Bristly drunkard's back in court (6)
27 Order starter of chicken in trendy bar (8)

Down

1 Desires to hire posh model for assignments (6)
2 Seducing lady in a little dingy shed (6)
3 Talk with regret about fifty killed in Northward migration of Boers (5,4)
4 What forensic pathologist will do to completely ignore a person (3,7,4)
6 Excellent oil used to make sauce (5)
7 Censor a shot featuring nudists essentially in programme (8)
8 Scene describing individual in prehistoric period (5,3)
9 Part of leg hurt, overwhelmed by pain - lad gets hold of nurse (8,6)
15 A revolting crime! Time to catch sly revolutionary (9)
16 Chapter in physics about mediums (8)
17 Doctor, I'm desperate for tablet of LSD (8)
19 South American stork shot by one on brief outing (6)
20 Discovers gun outside abandoned set (4,2)
22 Mounts difficulties, scoring century (5)

SUDOKU

								7
8		1	5	7				3
	4	2		3	6			
9	1				3	2		4
	2						5	
4		7	9				3	8
			4	1		5	7	
2				6	5	9		1
1								

No.SS5986 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	W	I	T	H	O	U	T	A	H	I	T	C	H	
		D	I		N		N		S		O			
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N		A		T		A		O		Y		D		E
W	A	T	E	R	S	P	O	U	T		H	O	O	P
O		E		I				N		M		N		L
R	A	D	I	O	E	S		C	H	O	L	E	R	A
T				N		W		E		N				C
H	O	S	T	I	L	E		R	E	T	I	C	L	E
I		I		C		E				E		U		M
E	D	D	O		S	T	A	F	F	N	U	R	S	E
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T	A	M	I	L	N	A	D	U		G	R	A	N	T
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	O	N	S	H	A	K	Y	G	R	O	U	N	D	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	6	8	9	7	5	1	4	3
9	4	7	3	1	6	2	8	5
3	1	5	4	8	2	7	9	6
7	8	4	2	5	9	3	6	1
1	3	6	8	4	7	5	2	9
5	2	9	1	6	3	8	7	4
4	5	1	7	9	8	6	3	2
8	9	2	6	3	1	4	5	7
6	7	3	5	2	4	9	1	8

FAITH

Seeking advice of Bhishma

Yudhishthira was stricken with intense remorse as all his relatives were killed in the war. Lord Krishna suggested to Yudhishthira to seek advice from the grandsire Bhishma, who lay on a bed of arrows.

Sri Ananthapadmanabhachariar Swamy said in a discourse that Bhishma learned Dharmasastra from sage Veda Vyasa and Sri Parasurama. Lord Krishna also admires him for his prowess, vast knowledge, steadfastness and deep devotion. Draupathi accompanied them to see the grandsire. She stared at Bhishma as if asking why dharma was ignored in Duryodhana's court when she was disrobed. Sensing this, Bhishma replied that he could not tender dharma then due to the food of Duryodhana that he ate. Now, all his blood is being drained out by Arjuna's arrows and new blood is infused by the divine grace of Lord Krishna, and he can instruct Dharmashastra to Yudhishthira.

Bhishma was called Devavratha not because of his vow not to marry and follow chastity but because he resolved to make Lord Krishna hold weapons (who promised not to use them in the war). Bhishma told Yudhishthira that Lord Krishna is the embodiment of all dharmas (*Krishnam-Sanatanam-Dharmam*). Lord Krishna appeared before Bhishma at his last moment.

SEOUL

S. Korea suspends deal after North puts military satellite into orbit

AP

South Korea decided to partially suspend an inter-Korean agreement and restart front-line aerial surveillance of North Korea, hours after the North claimed to have put its first military spy satellite into orbit in violation of UN resolutions. Officials are trying to confirm if the satellite can perform reconnaissance functions. AP

BEIJING

China and Uruguay upgrade relations as leaders meet in Beijing

AFP

China upgraded diplomatic ties with Uruguay on Wednesday as President Xi Jinping met counterpart Luis Lacalle Pou in Beijing. China is Uruguay's largest trading partner, in line with Beijing's steadily growing influence in Latin America, where it has poured billions of dollars of investment into infrastructure. AFP

THE HAGUE

Netherlands citizens cast their ballots in cliffhanger election

AFP

Dutch voters cast ballots in a cliffhanger election poised to usher in a new political era after Prime Minister Mark Rutte's record 13-year stint. Opinion polls suggest the result is far too close to predict, with any of four candidates — including one from the far-right — within striking distance of power in the EU's fifth-largest economy. AFP

LONDON

U.K. govt. unveils voter-friendly Budget with election on horizon

AFP

Britain's Conservative government launched plans to stimulate growth and woo voters for the next election, delivering a massive tax-cut sweetener for workers. Finance Minister Jeremy Hunt unveiled a package of 110 measures aimed at reinvigorating the economy and boosting investment by some £20 billion per year. AFP

6 Palestinians shot dead in Israeli raid in West Bank

Agence France-Presse
TULKARM

Six Palestinians were shot dead in an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, the Palestinian Authority's Health Ministry said.

More than 200 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers across the West Bank since the Hamas attacks on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7, according to the Ministry.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the Six-Day War of 1967 and its troops regularly launch raids across the Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said the Israeli Army stormed the refugee camp in the northern city of Tulkarem and briefly detained a 16-year-old with shrapnel wounds to his face. A 26-year-old young woman "beaten by the Israeli Army" had been transferred to hospital.

The Israeli Army was still in the camp at mid-morning Wednesday.

Israel and Hamas agree to four-day ceasefire in Gaza

Hamas to release 50 hostages, Israel to free some 150 Palestinians; truce to be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed by Hamas; Netanyahu vows to resume war after truce

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel and Hamas agreed to a four-day ceasefire in the war in Gaza – a diplomatic breakthrough that will free dozens of hostages held by militants as well as Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, and bring a large influx of aid to the besieged territory.

The truce announced Wednesday raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which was triggered by Hamas' October 7 rampage into Israel. Now in its seventh week, the war has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across West Asia.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would resume the war after the truce and keep fighting to destroy Hamas' fighting and governing abilities and secure the release of all hostages in Gaza.

Brief respite: A UN group distributes flour to Palestinian refugees in Khan Yunis in Gaza on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

The cease-fire temporarily freezes both sides at a tenuous moment. Israeli troops hold much of northern Gaza and say they have dismantled tunnels and much of Hamas' infrastructure there.

But Israeli officials acknowledge the group's infrastructure remains intact elsewhere.

The announcement of the truce capped weeks of indirect, stop-and-go negotiations to free some of the roughly 240 hostages taken by Hamas.

The cease-fire is to take effect at 10 a.m. local time (1330 IST) on Thursday, according to Egypt's state-run Qahera TV channel. Egypt and Qatar, along with the U.S., helped mediate the deal between Israel and Hamas.

Fifty hostages will be freed in stages, in exchange for the release of what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will let go women and children first.

Israel said the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed by Hamas. Hamas said hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian aid – including fuel – would be allowed to enter Gaza.

Israel's Justice Ministry published a list of 300 prisoners eligible to be released, mainly teenagers detained over the past year for rock-throwing and other minor offenses.

The Israeli military says it has detained more than 1,850 Palestinians in the West Bank since the war began, mostly suspected Hamas members. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed there.

Weeks of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, followed by a ground invasion, have killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Days after being removed, Altman back as OpenAI CEO, along with new board

Associated Press

The ousted leader of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI is returning to the company that fired him late last week, culminating a days-long power struggle that shocked the tech industry and brought attention to the conflicts around how to safely build artificial intelligence.

San Francisco-based OpenAI said in a statement late on Tuesday: "We have reached an agreement in principle for Sam Altman to return to OpenAI as CEO with a new initial board."

The board, which replaces the one that fired Mr. Altman on Friday, will be led by former Salesforce co-CEO Bret Taylor, who also chaired Twitter's board before its takeover by Elon Musk last year. The other members will be former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Quora CEO Adam D'Angelo.

OpenAI's previous board of directors, which included Mr. D'Angelo, had refused to give specific reasons for why it fired Mr. Altman, leading to a weekend of internal conflict at the company and growing outside pressure from the startup's investors.

Sam Altman

The chaos also accentuated the differences between Mr. Altman – who's become the face of generative AI's rapid commercialisation since ChatGPT's arrival a year ago – and members of the company's board who have expressed deep reservations about the safety risks posed by AI as it gets more advanced.

Microsoft, which has invested billions of dollars in OpenAI and has rights to its current technology, quickly moved to hire Mr. Altman on Monday, as well as another co-founder and former president, Greg Brockman, who had quit in protest after Mr. Altman's removal. That emboldened a threatened exodus of nearly all of the startup's 770 employees who signed a letter calling for the board's resignation and Mr. Altman's return.

One of the four board members who participated in Mr. Altman's ouster, OpenAI co-founder and chief scientist Ilya Sutskever, later expressed regret and joined the call for the board's resignation.

Microsoft in recent days had pledged to welcome all employees who wanted to follow Mr. Altman and Mr. Brockman to a new AI research unit at the software giant. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella also made clear in a series of interviews on Monday that he was still open to the possibility of Mr. Altman returning to OpenAI, so long as the startup's governance problems are solved.

U.S. strikes kill eight pro-Iran fighters in Iraq, angers Baghdad

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

U.S. fighter jets struck two targets in Iraq early on Wednesday, killing eight pro-Iran fighters in retaliation for repeated attacks on American troops, U.S. and Iraqi sources said.

The twin strikes, which followed similar bombardment of Iran-backed forces on Tuesday, drew condemnation from the Iraqi government, which said it had not been consulted about the military action on its soil.

The U.S. military "conducted discrete, precision strikes against two facilities in Iraq," U.S. Central Command said on X, previously known as Twitter.

Strikes were response to attacks against U.S. and coalition forces by Iran and Iran-backed groups

"The strikes were in direct response to the attacks against U.S. and coalition forces by Iran and Iran-backed groups," the post added.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah Brigades, which form part of the Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) force within Iraq's armed forces, said the strikes killed eight of its fighters.

'China may help develop Fiji ports and shipyards'

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

China may help Fiji develop its ports and shipyards, the Pacific island country's Prime Minister said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who has been cautious about China's expanding security footprint in the Pacific, praised Beijing's record of aid to Fiji in fighting COVID-19, developing agriculture and revamping infrastructure.

The modernisation of Fiji's port and shipyards is a "key focus" for sustainable development, Mr. Rabuka told Parliament after meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week.

Afghan border trade resumes after Pakistan suspends visa rule

Agence France-Presse
PESHAWAR

Cross-border trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan was back to normal on Wednesday, officials in both countries said, after Islamabad suspended a new visa rule.

Commercial traffic ground to a halt on Tuesday when Pakistan began requiring the crew of commercial vehicles to have passports and visas to enter, and Afghanistan responded by refusing to allow any trucks to pass.

"Yesterday, when Pakistan enforced its new rules, the Afghan side responded by suspending trade in protest," a Pakistan customs official said.

"Last night, officials from the Ministry of Commerce held a meeting with Afghan officials, reaching an agreement to grant another two-week extension for Afghan drivers."

The official said Pakistan had already twice deferred implementing the new rule.

Long-fraught relations between Kabul and Islamabad have worsened since October, when Pakistan announced plans to deport hundreds of thousands of Afghan migrants it said were in the country illegally.

So far about 3,40,000 Afghans have been deported or returned voluntarily.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NOTICE NO.18/2023-2024/D1/DATED:21.11.2023

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed **Item rate tender** in Two cover system through online only will be received **upto 12.12.2023 - 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle for Construction / Reconstruction of **One Bridge** work under **RIDF XXVIII NABARD Loan Assistance 158 Bridges for the year 2022-2023** pertaining to **Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division,** which was approved in G.O. (Ms.) No.7 Highways and Minor Ports (EAP.II(2) Department dated 30.01.2023.

Details such as Name of work, approximate value of work, EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the work will be available **from 23.11.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes / Corrections / Amendments etc related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.

DIPR/6175/TENDER/2023
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI-2

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID :- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement (SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE)
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC(R AND B) /25/ 2023-24
No.6333 Dtd.21.11.2023

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system **in ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Road Works and Building Works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = **01 (ONE) (Road Work)**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor : **"A" Class**
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From **23.11.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 29.11.2023.**
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : **29.11.2023 at 18.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur.
B-1315 : OIPR-34035/11/0029/2324

Odisha Tourism
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road,
Bhubaneswar-751014
Fax No. +91 674 2430887
E-mail: info@odishatourism.gov.in

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବିଭାଗ

ODISHA
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ଭବନ, ଲୁଇସ ରୋଡ୍,
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧୦୧୪

Government of Odisha
Tourism Department

No. 11314 /TSM, Bhubaneswar, Dated : 22-11-23
TCT-TSP-FEST-0011-2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF OPERATOR(S) FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (O&M) OF RESTAURANT CUM BEACH SHACK AT RAMCHANDI BEACH AREA ON OPERATIONAL CONTRACT BASIS

Department of Tourism (DoT) invites proposals from prospective applicant(s) for **'Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Operator(s) for Operation and Management (O&M) of Restaurant cum Beach Shack at Ramchandi Beach Area on Operational Contract Basis'** in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

The Proposals should be submitted by interested applicant(s) to the Director Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014 on or before **06.12.2023 upto 15:00 Hrs.** Detailed terms of the RFP may be downloaded from our website: **https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en/dot/quickLinks/tender.html .**

Addl. Secretary to Govt.
RR-11 OIPR-37001/11/0030/2324

TELANGANA FOODS : IDA : NACHARAM : HYDERABAD - 500076
Phone No. 27152207, 08 & 09
Tender Notification No. TF/GG/tender/ Wheat/Trptn/FCI/WBNP/AP&TG/1330/2023-24. Dt. 22.11.2023

Telangana Foods invites **"Tenders for Transportation of 40,000 MTs of Wheat"** from FCI, Cherlapally to Telangana Foods, IDA-Nacharam **&** Poosa Godowns, Chengicherla, Medchal-R.R Dist. For details please visit website: **https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in** and website: **https://tfoods.telangana.gov.in** from 23.11.2023 at 3.00 PM onwards.

DIPR R.O.No.8353-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 22.11.2023 **Sd/- Managing Director**

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E - TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer (IT, CR&CAPs), Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID : 2023_KSEB_621925_1
Last date : 29.12.2023, 05.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref: PR/MC1/E440/E-Tender/2023

Tel.06766-258301(O); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Bridge-cum-Weir Work
Identification No. Bridge-cum-Weir Online NCB No.400
No. 4257 / Date : 21/11/23

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of bridge over river Kusei at 1st Km. on Daradipal-Jalasuan road in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 196.44 Lakhs** (Approximately).
3. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : **'B' & 'A' Class Contractor**
4. Period of Completion : **09 (Nine) Calendar months.**
5. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.400	Dt.29.11.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.13.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.12.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.14.12.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-1583: OIPR-25177/11/0038/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-41 of 2023-24, Letter No.3453 /Dtd.21.11.2023
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Bridge (OMBADC)**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-41 of 2023-24	28.11.2023 11:00 AM	11.12.2023 5:00 PM	08.12.2023 5:00 PM	12.12.2023 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-1588 : OIPR-25133/11/0056/2324

INBRIEF

IDBI Bank share sale said to be unlikely before 2024 polls

The Union Government will likely complete the sale of its majority stake in IDBI Bank only after the country's general elections in mid-2024, said three sources aware of the matter, stretching out a process that began in October 2022. The RBI has not yet completed "fit and proper" vetting on the interested bidders, who include Emirates NBD and Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa, after which the bidders can do their due diligence and place their financial bids, the sources said. REUTERS

Memsift bags $1.62-mn order from global pharma major

Singapore-based Memsift Innovations has bagged a $1.62-million commercial contract from a leading Fortune 100 pharma company to revolutionise industrial liquid waste treatment and zero liquid discharge solutions. The move would not only enable the pharma major to achieve more than 90% cost savings in waste disposal, but also reduce carbon footprint by up to 80% compared with conventional methods, said Memsift founder & CEO J. Antony Prince.

Tata Tech IPO fully subscribed within minutes of opening bids

The initial public offering (IPO) of Tata Technologies was fully subscribed within minutes of opening for bidding on Wednesday and ended with 6.54 times subscription. The ₹3,042.5-crore IPO received bid for shares against 29,43,78,780 shares against 4,50,29,207 shares on offer, translating into 6.54 times subscription, according to NSE data. The public issue, with a price band of ₹475-500 per share, will conclude on November 24. PTI

Das flags model-based lending, warns banks, NBFCs of undue risk build-up

RBI chief cautions lenders against being over-reliant on algorithms and model-based credit appraisal and lending, especially at a time when greater collaboration with fintechs is facilitating the introduction of innovative products and services

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has cautioned banks and NBFCs against being over-reliant on algorithms and model-based credit appraisal and lending, especially at a time when increased collaboration with fintechs is facilitating the introduction of innovative products and services.

"Banks and NBFCs need to be careful in relying solely on pre-set algorithms as assumptions based on which the models are operated," Mr. Das observed at the FIBAC 2023 Conference jointly organised by FICCI and IBA in Mumbai on Wednesday. "These models should be robust and tested and re-tested periodically. They may require to be calibrated and re-calibrated... based on the changing contours of the financial ecosystem," he added.

Prudence urged: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das asks lenders to ensure pricing of credit is in sync with the risks envisaged. PTI

'Underwriting dilution'

Crucially, it was "necessary to be watchful of any undue risk build up in the system due to information gaps in these models, which may cause dilution of underwriting standards," he emphasised.

Urging banks and NBFCs to take precautionary measures, he said the expansion of the credit portfolio and pricing of the same should be in sync with the risks envisaged.

"Banks and NBFCs also need to further strengthen their asset liability management. They may give greater attention to their liabilities side. In certain cases, we have observed increased reliance on high cost short-term bulk deposits while the tenure of the loans, both in retail and corporate loans, is getting elongated," he noted, as he also flagged contagion risk.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	66,023	0.14
US Dollar	83.32	-0.04
Gold	62,200	0.08
Brent oil	78.86	-3.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2172.65	-24.00
Adani Ports	791.90	-9.45
Apollo Hosp	5532.00	65.20
Asian Paints	3133.00	-0.25
Axis Bank	998.10	6.30
Bajaj Auto	5751.55	65.60
Bajaj Finserv	1623.90	13.50
Bajaj Finance	7128.35	25.20
Bharti Airtel	969.75	-1.10
BPCL	402.10	14.10
Britannia Ind	4694.20	-5.55
Cipla	1271.50	18.25
Coal India	332.15	-2.05
Divis Lab	3701.70	-19.90
Dr Reddys Lab	5664.55	18.10
Eicher Motors	3833.80	-10.40
Grasim Ind	1974.10	-3.35
HCL Tech	1329.70	3.10
HDFC Bank	1512.55	-5.40
HDFC Life	668.50	0.60
Hero MotoCorp	3413.60	37.10
Hindalco	500.25	-6.60
Hind Unilever	2521.90	16.65
ICICI Bank	922.75	-3.35
IndusInd Bank	1470.40	-31.65
Infosys	1457.80	18.80
ITC	439.70	3.45
JSW Steel	768.45	-7.35
Kotak Bank	1745.65	-21.55
L&T	3082.30	7.45
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5553.65	33.40
M&M	1543.45	-16.30
Maruti Suzuki	10494.55	-40.60
NestleIndia	24350.85	-22.60
NTPC	253.65	3.65
ONGC	191.00	-0.20
PowerGrid Corp	211.60	2.65
Reliance Ind	2388.20	9.30
SBI Life	1430.10	6.45
State Bank	558.95	-2.55
Sun Pharma	1204.10	2.70
TataConsumerProduct	928.25	0.55
Tata Motors	681.20	-0.50
Tata Steel	126.10	-0.15
TCS	3530.15	19.95
Tech Mahindra	1215.40	10.90
Titan	3429.85	35.40
UltraTech Cement	8759.90	51.55
UPL	565.90	2.85
Wipro	400.25	-0.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.12	83.44
Euro	90.65	91.00
British Pound	104.18	104.59
Japanese Yen (100)	55.88	56.10
Chinese Yuan	11.62	11.67
Swiss Franc	94.05	94.43
Singapore Dollar	62.01	62.26
Canadian Dollar	60.67	60.90
Malaysian Ringitt	17.76	17.85
Australian Dollar	54.57	54.79

Source:Indian Bank

NBFCs likely to see asset growth of 14-17% next fiscal, says CRISIL

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Assets under management (AUM) of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are expected to grow at 14-17% in the next fiscal on the back of continued strong credit demand across retail loan segments, CRISIL Ratings said in a report.

Growth may be moderately lower than 16-18% expected in the current fiscal as unsecured retail loans – the fastest growing segment in the NBFC AUM pie so far – are likely to see a relatively slower growth as

The recent regulatory measures are targeted at unsecured retail loans, says Chhatwal

NBFCs recalibrate their strategies due to the recent regulatory measures issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the rating agency said.

"Going forward, diversification in product offerings and funding profile will be key constituents of their growth strategy," CRISIL said. "The recent regulatory measures are targeted at unsecured retail loans and do not impact the secured asset classes where growth is expected to be steady," said Gurpreet Chhatwal, Managing Director, CRISIL Ratings.

'No impact on HFCs'

"Importantly, the regulatory changes do not impact housing finance companies (HFCs)," he added.

"The two largest traditional segments of home loans and vehicle finance now comprise 25-27% each of the NBFC AUM. Both segments are expected to report steady growth," Mr. Chhatwal said.

DGCA slaps ₹10 lakh penalty on Air India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Aviation watchdog DGCA has imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Air India for failure to comply with norms pertaining to facilities required to be provided to passengers, including non-payment of compensation to international business class passengers who were made to travel on unserviceable seats.

After carrying out inspections of airlines at Delhi, Kochi and Bangalore airports, the regulator observed that Air India was not complying with the provisions of the relevant Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR). A show-cause notice was issued to Air India on November 3.

In a release on Wednesday, DGCA said that based on Air India's reply to the show-cause notice, it was found that the airline did not comply with the provisions of the CAR.

There was no immediate comment from Air India. Last year, the regulator imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Air India for not complying with the provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirement on denied boarding of passengers.

BSE, NSE fine AGEL for breaching norms

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BSE and NSE have imposed fines totalling ₹11.22 lakh on Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) for non-compliance with certain listing regulations.

The two exchanges imposed fines of ₹5.61 lakh each on the company.

"BSE Ltd. and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. have, vide their letter dated November 21, 2023 (received by us at 6.30 p.m. ant 8.30 pm, respectively), imposed a fine of ₹5,61,680 each on the company," the company said in a regulatory filing.

The company said in the filing that it wished to clarify that it had already appointed two more independent directors effective September 7 and changed the composition of committees thereafter and after which, it was in full compliance of Regulation 17(1) and 19(1) of the Sebi Listing Regulations effective from September 7.

Regulation 17(1) of the SEBI Listing Regulations provides for requirements pertaining to the composition of the board, including failure to appoint a woman director. Regulation 19(1) provides for constitution of nomination and remuneration committee.

CG Power plans chip assembly, testing unit at $791 mn investment

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The firm proposes to implement the project as a JV in partnership with technology providers

CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. (CGPISL) said it is planning to set up an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in partnership with technology providers at an investment of $791 million over a period of five years.

In a regulatory filing, the Murugappa Group company said that it had filed an application with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) seeking approval for the project and grant of subsidy.

CGPISL proposes to implement the project as a joint venture in partnership with technology providers/anchor customers, after getting the nod from the Centre for the project and subsidy.

Multiple sources

Currently, the proposal is under discussion, the company said adding that it expected to raise the funds through a combination of subsidy, JV partners' equity contribution and debt. Tube Investments acquired cash-strapped CG Power in November 2020.

India seeks private money for coal-fired power plants despite Western opposition

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday asked private firms to ramp up investments in new coal-fired power plants to meet a dramatic rise in electricity demand and bridge almost 30-gigawatts of additional requirement by 2030, despite international pressure to stop building such facilities.

India's power and renewable energy minister R. K. Singh in New Delhi asked private companies to invest in coal projects and "not miss the growth opportunity," according to three sources present in the meeting. The government meeting with investors comes weeks before the U.N. climate conference, at which France, backed by the U.S., plans to seek a halt to private financing for coal-based power plants, according to a Reuters report.

The private investment share in the Indian power sector started dwindling after 2018, when it was more than, or at par with, government investments. Currently, it stands at 36% of the country's total installed capacity.

Most of the coal-based capacity under development is being set up by state-owned companies, with Adani Power and JSW Energy the only private firms building such plants.

Many private players stopped building new coal-based plants in India over a decade ago due to a lack of financing in the absence of long-term power supply bids from consumers.

In recent years, however, energy demand has outpaced expectations in India, the world's most populous country, as economy activity picked up.

Since August, the South Asian nation's energy demand rose 18% to 20% year-on-year. The government expects it to rise by at least 6% annually till end of this decade.

During the meeting, Mr. Singh said new estimates see peak power demand reaching 335-gigawatts by 2030 versus the present 240-gigawatts, according to the three sources.

Private power firms were told that the majority of peak-hour electricity demand could be met by coal-based power stations.

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur – 302005, India
Tel No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, E-mail: edprmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

F.02(390)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIPQ-07/2023/2136 Dated:-20.11.2023

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

Applications on prescribed registration form are invited by RMSCL, Jaipur from bonafide MANUFACTURERS / LOAN LICENSEE / IMPORTERS only for empanelment/ registration of bidders, for supply of Drugs & Medicines. The last date of submission of duly filled up form along with documents on e-proc i.e **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and Fees is upto 6.00 PM of **14.12.2023** Details of Registration form along with terms & conditons etc. can be downloaded from State Public Procurement Portal **"https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" or http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or RMSCL website **"http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in". UBN No. –MSC2324GLOB00108**

Raj.Samwad/C/23/11318 **Executive Director(Proc)**

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

Request for proposals are invited through e-procurement platform in Notice RFP No.03 & 04/TOEFL/Primary & Junior/2023-24, Date: 23.11.2023 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for services in entire State of Andhra Pradesh.

RFP downloading starts from : **23-11-2023 @ 03.00 PM**
Last date for receipt for of RFP : **13-12-2023 @ 03.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact: **0866-2428599, 9972925761**

DIPR 2493PP/CL, Dt.22/11/2023 **Sd/- for State Project Director**

Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST)
Department of IT, Suraj and Science Technology (Govt. of Uttarakhand)
Vigyan Dham, Jhajra, Chakrata Road,Dehradun -248015 [UK]
(Tel: 0135-2976266, email: ucost@ucost.in)

UCS&T/Tender/STEM/2023-24/24876 Dehradun, Dated: 22.11.2023

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Setting of STEM & Innovation Center

Proposals are invited from reputed STEM education resource material suppliers and service providers for setting up STEM & Innovation Centers in 95 schools of 95 blocks of Uttarakhand from interested agencies having proven experience in setting up of such facilities in various schools across the country. Interested agencies may submit their sealed tenders in two bid systems, i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid along with Tender fees and EMD (as per the terms and conditions with details available on the website:- https://ucost.uk.gov.in) to "The Director General, Uttarakhand State Council for Science &Technology (UCOST), Vigyan Dham, Jhajra, Chakrata Road, Dehradun-248015, Uttarakhand" by Speed Post/Registered Post Only.Last date of submission of above documents is 4:00 PM of 13th Dec, 2023.

Administrative Officer

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re-e-Tender No 153,154,155/2023-24/ SE/PHC/ALP/RT-1, Jala Jeevan Mission -WSS Ala, Puliyar, Budhanur, Pandanad, Mulakuzha Chengannur Municipality, - Construction of OHSR and pipeline works in zone 9,10,11&12. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 01-12-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954

Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

KWA-JB-GL-6-1660-2023-24 **Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Alappuzha**

Government of Punjab
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (World Bank-Goods)
NIT No. 247/SE(TIC), dated 22.11.2023

The department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (B&R) invites online double bids for "Procurement of IT hardware and equipment for providing and replacing the existing infrastructure of establishment of e-office at Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana" (2nd time) as per schedule given below.:
Closing date & time: 11.12.2023 up to 02:00 PM
For details log on to: eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Detail of works / goods, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/ addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

NA/12/20347/2023/29972 **Superintending Engineer (TIC), Municipal Corporation Ludhiana**

Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST)
Department of IT, Suraj and Science Technology (Govt. of Uttarakhand)
Vigyan Dham, Jhajra, Chakrata Road,Dehradun -248015 [UK]
(Tel: 0135-2976266, email: ucost@ucost.in)

No.: UCS&T/Lab on Wheels/2023-24/24875 Dehradun, Dated: 22 November, 2023

Tender for Appointment of Agency for Providing Services of "Lab on Wheels" in 13 Districts of Uttarakhand

Proposals are invited from competent agencies for providing services of Mobile Science Lab for program "Lab on Wheels" in 13 districts of Uttarakhand. Agencies having proven competence, expertise, experience and infrastructure to provide such services may apply with their credentials and submit offer in prescribed proforma. Decision of the Council with regard to selection will be final and binding. Tender details are available and may be downloaded from our website: https://ucost.uk.gov.in and to be submitted duly filled and complete in all respects. Technical and Financial bids along with tender fees and EMD should reach latest by 13.12.2023 (4:00 PM) to the above address.

Administrative Officer

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NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATE EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2023

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next **FMGE** on **20th January 2024**.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	23rd November Onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	23rd November 2023 (3 PM Onwards) to 13th December 2023 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	20th January 2024
Declaration of the Result	By 20th February 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

HORSES FOR COURSES

RR trades Padikkal for LSG's Avesh ahead of IPL 2024

SPORTZPICS

India fast bowler Avesh Khan has been traded to Rajasthan Royals from Lucknow Super Giants, who has acquired the services of left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal in a direct swap ahead of next year's IPL. Avesh and Padikkal have been traded for their existing fee of ₹10 crore and ₹7.75 crore respectively.

TOUGH CHOICES

Sarfaraz Khan and Manish Pandey released by Delhi Capitals

FILE PHOTO: PTI, VIJAY SONEJI

Out-of-form middle-order batters Sarfaraz Khan and Manish Pandey have been released by Delhi Capitals ahead of next year's Indian Premier League. Sarfaraz was bought for ₹20 lakh while Pandey received ₹2.40 crore from the franchise. Thus Delhi has freed an additional ₹2.60 crore for the upcoming auction.

BACK IN THE MIX

Gautam Gambhir to return to Kolkata Knight Riders as mentor

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Gautam Gambhir, who led Kolkata Knight Riders to two title victories in the IPL, will return to the side as its mentor. Gambhir, who played for the team from 2011 to 2017 during which the side won the crown in 2012 and 2014, will work with KKR's head coach Chandrakant Pandit.

JUMPING THE GUN

Inter Miami quashes rumours of Messi vs. Ronaldo clash

AP

Inter Miami says it has not agreed to compete in Saudi Arabia next February, refuting the claims by a promoter's announcement earlier on Tuesday that Messi's side would face Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr and Neymar's Al-Hilal in the Riyadh Season Cup. Miami said it had been determining its preseason schedule.

Chance for youngsters to test their skills against a quality side

India and Australia gear up for the T20I series after the Men in Blue's heartbreak at the ODI World Cup; the hosts have opted for a new line-up; the visitors have a strong bowling attack despite resting their front-line quicks

AUS IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
VISAKHAPATNAM

The memories of the World Cup final between India and Australia are still vivid, and for the Indian fan, the wound from the loss has barely begun to heal. It was a spectacular campaign for the hosts and they only faltered at the final hurdle against the mighty Aussies.

On Thursday, the two teams will meet here at the Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Stadium to kick off a five-match T20 international series.

Not surprisingly, India has opted for a new line-up, giving most members of its World Cup squad a much-needed rest after a gruelling two-and-a-half months which started with the Asia Cup in September. Only three players, Suryakumar Yadav – who will lead the team – Ishan Kishan and Prasidh Krishna continue from the ODI squad.

Though cricket's marquee event just ended, the ICC T20 World Cup, the next big event, is justs seven months away. With India set to play just 11 T20Is from now till June next year, apart from the Indian Premier League, the preparations for the tournament in the West Indies and the U.S. will begin in earnest here on Thursday.

New think-tank: Coach Laxman and skipper Suryakumar discuss the gameplan. K.R DEEPAK

Since winning the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, India has had a poor run in the tournament, reaching the summit clash only once (in 2014) where it lost to Sri Lanka. In last year's event in Australia, England blew India away by 10 wickets in the semifinals.

The squad for this series includes many youngsters who have shown promise in the IPL and were part of the successful tour to Ireland and at the Asian Games. But the next 10 days will be their first real chance to test their skills against a top-quality international team and stake a claim for a more consistent run at the highest level.

The series offers a chance for all-rounder Axar Patel to get back into the groove after missing the World Cup due to a quadricep strain.

Australia will have as many as seven players from the World Cup-winning squad for this series, with wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade leading the side. With conditions in the West Indies likely to be similar to India, the Men in Yellow would want the youngsters to get acclimatised to spinning pitches.

Though Travis Head, Steve Smith, and Glenn Maxwell are part of the squad, Wade insisted they won't be pressured into playing the first match.

Despite resting its front-line quicks, Australia has a strong bowling attack led by pacers Sean Abbott, Nathan Ellis and Jason Behrendorff, with leg-spinners Adam Zampa and Tanveer Sangha to complement them.

While the scheduling of this series might not be ideal, coming just four days after an exciting World Cup final, Suryakumar's men will look to overcome Sunday's loss and start preparations for India's next big target.

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dubey, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar.

Australia: Matthew Wade (Capt.), Aaron Hardie, Jason Behrendorff, Sean Abbott, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa.

Umpires: Nitin Menon & Rohan Pandit; **TV Umpire:** J.R. Madanagopal; **Reserve umpire:** K.N. Ananthapadmanabhan; **Match Referee**: Javagal Srinath.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

There's always light at the end of the tunnel, says Suryakumar

S. Dipak Ragav
VISAKHAPATNAM

On the eve of his first series as India captain, Suryakumar Yadav was in good spirits despite the heartbreak of the World Cup final against Australia three days ago.

"It is disappointing, but in the end when you look back at the journey it was a great campaign. Every member, not only the players but even the support staff and the whole of India, was proud of how everyone displayed their talent on the ground. The brand of cricket which we played throughout the tournament is a positive we can be very proud of," said Suryakumar.

On the challenges of playing a series soon after the final, he said, "It is difficult. It will take time. I mean, it can't be that you get up the next morning and you forget everything that happened. We would have loved to win. But then, as you say, when you get up there's always sunrise again and light at the end of the tunnel. You have to forget it and move on. It's a fresh team. New boys, great energy and looking forward."

Suryakumar also added the way Rohit Sharma led from the front with his attacking game will have a lasting impact on the side. "What he's done in the World Cup will set an example. He walked the talk. What we spoke about in the team meetings, he did the same thing on the ground, and hopefully, we will try to replicate the same."

With Australia holding the World Test Championship and the 50-over World Cup, the team can have all three ICC crowns if it wins the T20 World Cup next year.

When asked about the importance of this series in that context, skipper Matthew Wade said, "Yeah, absolutely. We let the boys celebrate and let that victory soak in. Then, the attention shifts toward the T20 World Cup.

"There are only 11 games, so for guys to get opportunities here and try and cement a spot into that squad is at the top of the mind.

"It is a great opportunity for the younger players and seniors like myself to get out here and play for Australia again."

Enthusiastic: Fans from Australia and India will hope for a closely-fought series. K.R DEEPAK

Disheartened India couldn't win: Kapil

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Kapil. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

World Cup-winning former India captain Kapil Dev said here on Wednesday he is "disappointed and disheartened" that India "played so well" and yet "couldn't win the (World Cup) trophy."

When Kapil spoke at a book launch event, he was asked if he remembers the only match in which he hasn't bowled in his ODI career.

He quipped: "If I could remember, if I had such a great memory, I wouldn't have played cricket. Since I was a bad (weak) student, I started playing."

When he was reminded of that match, he said: "Remember that you have to move on in life. And another thing I've learnt over a period of time, never talk about your time. We have moved on.

"We are not good enough. The young people are much better than us. The only thing we have – we have experience to guide them in the right direction. They are far better, but we can guide them better, that's all.

"Today's cricketers, sorry they couldn't win the World Cup, but they played well. I know in our mind winning is everything.

"But the way of play is more important. Others had also come here to play. Others played better (on the) last day. We should respect that.

"I'm disappointed and disheartened that they played so well and yet they couldn't win the trophy. But (it) doesn't matter. Let's hope what we didn't understand this time, we'll learn and do it better. That's the way we are," Kapil added.

Favourite venue

He said Chennai is his favourite cricket venue since he has memories of performing well whenever he's played here since his school days.

Lakshya and Srikanth sent packing in China Masters

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SHENZHEN

Star Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and K. Srikanth suffered contrasting defeats to bow out of the China Masters badminton tournament – the season's last BWF Super 750 event – here on Wednesday.

World No. 17 Lakshya, who won the Canada Open this year, went down 19-21, 18-21 to seventh-seeded Chinese Shi Yuqi, while World No. 24 Srikanth suffered a 15-21, 21-14, 13-21 loss to world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

Both Lakshya and Srikanth are fighting to be inside the top-16 by April 28 next year to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

The results (first round): Men: Lakshya Sen lost to Shi Yuqi (Chn) 19-21, 18-21; K. Srikanth lost to Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thai) 15-21, 21-14, 13-21; Priyanshu Rajawat lost to Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) 17-21, 14-21.

Women (doubles): Rutaparna Panda & Swetaparna Panda lost to Zhang Shu Xian & Zheng Yu (Chn) 15-21, 9-21.

Forget about Asian Cup, let's try to do well in the WC qualifiers: coach Stimac

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

There is not much hope in aspiring for exceptional results in the Asian Cup as India's 0-3 loss against Qatar in the group league stage of the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers here at the Kalinga Stadium on Tuesday offered a good reality check in that regard, felt the senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac.

The National coach felt that his side will not have enough preparation time ahead of the Asian Cup and that it will make it very difficult for his players to do well against superiorly ranked opponents like Australia (27), Uzbekistan (74) and Syria (92).

He said it will be better for India to focus on the World Cup 2026 qualification bid as it has made a bright start by beating Kuwait at home and can reach the next stage by becoming the second team in the final group standings.

Tough job: Stimac says he will be able to provide results if he gets the adequate amount of time to prepare with the players. BISWARANJAN ROUT

"Let us stop talking about the Asian Cup. We didn't get what we wanted. You give me time and I will try to give results to you. If you cannot, then do not expect any good results.

"We will be going to Doha (for the Asian Cup) with the pride of representing India and do everything possible on the pitch," Stimac said after his team suffered the loss against Qatar.

"We are going to face Uzbekistan, which is preparing for six weeks, while there is not much chance against Australia, which is much better than Qatar. So

> We can try our best in the limited time we have
> STIMAC

we can try our best in the limited time we have," said the former Croatian defender.

India starts its Asian Cup campaign on January 13 against Australia and with the Indian Super League schedule extending till December 29, it is unlikely that the clubs will release the players before that.

Top seed Tanvi to meet Anahat for the crown

Eye on the ball: Tanvi defeated Rathika in straight games in the women's semifinals. AKHILA EASWARAN

NATIONAL SQUASH

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Top seed Tanvi Khanna had a fairly straightforward 11-1, 11-5, 11-8 win over Rathika Suthanthira Seelan in the semifinal to enter the women's final of the 79th National squash championships at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy (ISTA) here on Wednesday.

Tanvi was 3-6 down in the third game, but drew level and went on to close out at 11-8.

"Obviously, you're always really concerned when you're down. Even if you're up in the match, I was down in the game. I was able to kind of reset focus on what I had to do and it showed. From 3-6, I reached 9-6.

"I'm very happy with my performance; it was good also to get tested a bit in the third game, because it is good to fight back," she said.

In a repeat of last edition's men's final, top seed Abhay Singh will face Velavan Senthilkumar on Thursday.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Abhay Singh (TN) bt Suraj Chand (Mah) 11-6, 11-2, 11-3; Velavan Senthilkumar (TN) bt Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (TN) 11-7, 11-7, 11-8.

Women: Tanvi Khanna (Del) bt Rathika Suthanthira Seelan (TN) 11-1, 11-5, 11-8; Anahat Singh (Del) bt Urwashi Joshi (Mah) 11-7, 11-3, 11-8.

INBRIEF

Zoza Hockey Academy thrashes Naveen HC

Zoza Hockey Academy thrashed Naveen HC 9-0 in the KSHA-BHA B-division hockey league in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Bibin Babu scores the winner
Bibin Babu's 89th minute winner earned Rebels FC a 3-2 come-from-behind victory over FC Deccan in the BDFA Super Division League.

The results: Rebels 3 (Suraj Gurung 9, 68, Bibin Babu 89) bt Deccan 2 (Tonglen Lal Chongui 17, Ngairanagbam Rakesh Singh 58); Kodagu 2 (Shlok Tiwari 2, 32) drew with Agniputhra 2 (Yadav Rahul 13, Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 90+5).

Argentina betters Brazil in a feisty WC qualifying clash

Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0 on Tuesday in an ill-tempered 2026 World Cup qualifying clash in Rio.

The results: Paraguay 0 lot to Colombia 1 (Borre 11-pen); Uruguay 3 (Nunez 15, 71, Villamil 39-og) bt Bolivia 0; Brazil 0 lost to Argentina 1 (Otamendi 63).

Rutuja downs Smriti to advance

Rutuja Bhosale overcame Smriti Bhasin 6-4, 7-5 to advance to the pre-quarterfinals of the ITF Bowring Institute ITF Women's World Tennis Tour event in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Top seed Nigina Abduraimova of Uzbekistan registered a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Ekaterina Yashina while second seed Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand breezed past India's Sharmada Balu 6-0, 6-1.

The results (round of 32):
Rutuja Bhosale bt Smriti Bhasin 6-4, 7-5; Nigina Abduraimova (Uzb) bt Ekaterina Yashina 6-2, 6-3; Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Sharmada Balu 6-0, 6-1; Pranjala Yadlapalli bt Vanshita Pathania 6-1, 6-0; Anna Ureke bt Sonal Patil 6-0, 6-0; Pooja Ingale bt Tamara Curovic (Srb) 4-1 (retd.); Zhibek Kulambayeva bt Tanisha Kashyap 6-4, 6-3; Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Saumya Vig 6-0, 6-1; Zeel Desai bt Arunkumar Lakshmi Prabha 6-1, 6-1; Antonia Schmidt (Ger) bt Kundali Majgaine 6-3, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
Tennis: Davis Cup (Quarterfinals), Sony Sports Ten 2& LIV, 2.30 & 8.30 p.m.
India vs Australia: 1st T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.

Aggressive Jharkhand bests Chandigarh

Bengal majestic in its victory over Jammu and Kashmir, it will now clash with Manipur to find table topper in Group E

HOCKEY NATIONALS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

It was dubbed as the match to look out for in the Hockey India-13th Senior National men's championship here on Wednesday. For, the winner would potentially top Group F and enter the quarterfinals.

The Jharkhand and Chandigarh contest on Wednesday, however, did not live up to expectations in the first two quarters as the score remained goalless. But in the remaining two quarters, the tie came to full life as Jharkhand scripted a fantastic 2-0 win.

From the third quarter, Jharkhand upped the ante with smart quick moves that took the Chandigarh defence by surprise. In one such counter-attack, Prem Kerketta converted from a melee in the box.

Excellent chance
Chandigarh had an excellent chance to equalise after it earned a penalty stroke soon after. In the subsequent video referral, the stroke was not awarded. Jharkhand effectively put it across Chandigarh after a fierce cross from the right by Joseph Kongari saw it being deftly deflected in by Anurad Bhengra.

Earlier, Bengal posted its second successive victory in a Group E tie, with a majestic 10-0 triumph over Jammu & Kashmir. Bengal will clash with Manipur on Thursday and the winner will top the group and enter the knockouts.

The results: Group A: Chhattisgarh 11 (Sukhdev Nirmalkar 4, 49, Junaid Ahmed 8, 34, 39, Khogeshwar Bag 9, 36, Arbaj Ali 20, Ajay Tandi 25, Taufiq Ahmad 38, Rohit Rajak 60) bt Gujarat 3 (Shubham Yadav 1, Ahir Jenishkumar 11, Ajaykumar Thakor 41).

Group C: Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu 7 (Anup Tirkey 25, Dharmendra Pal 27, 42, Prajapati Dhananjay 34, Abhinav Singh 40, Komal Singh 41, Arvind Yadav 53) bt Bihar 1 (Jony Kumar 57).

Group E: Bengal 10 (Rajendra Oram 4, 8, 27, 37, Alsem Lakra 30, 59, Kunjam Topno 38, Milan Saha 47, 49, Kishor Lakra 59) bt J&K 0.

Group F: Jharkhand 2 (Prem Kerketta 43, Anurad Bhengra 7) bt Chandigarh 0.

Group H: Telangana 15 (Mahesh Reddy Rela 4, 30, Aditya Sagar Gobboori 5, Ranjit Chand Bhavani 9, 59, Sandeep Subedar 15, 54, Arvind Lavudya 19, Abdul Moiz Shaik 20, 58, Raju Talla 21, 59, Akshay Thimmapuram 28, Sandeep Erapaga 39, Akshay Thimmapuram 48) bt Arunachal 0.

The opener: Prem Kerketta fires in Jharkhand's first against Chandigarh. M. VEDHAN

Karnataka will have its task cut out, Delhi will challenge

HAZARE TROPHY

Abhishek Saini
AHMEDABAD

Even as the spotlight pans away from Ahmedabad in the wake of India's agonizing World Cup final loss, cricket will remain the focal point in the city as it gears up to host the Group C matches of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023.

Karnataka will have its task cut out after its suboptimal campaign in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT).

Mayank Agarwal will herald Karnataka for the second year running and will be hoping to take the side all the way after it stumbled in the semifinals last year.

THURSDAY'S FIXTURES

Group A: Bangalore: Kerala vs. Saurashtra; Mumbai vs. Sikkim; Pondicherry vs. Railways; Odisha vs. Tripura.
Group B: Jaipur: Jharkhand vs. Maharashtra; Hyderabad vs. Manipur; Chhattisgarh vs. Services; Meghalaya vs. Vidarbha.
Group C: Ahmedabad: J&K vs. Karnataka; Chandigarh vs. Mizoram; Haryana vs. Uttarakhand; Bihar vs. Delhi.
Group D: Chandigarh: Assam vs. Gujarat; Andhra vs. Himachal Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh vs. Rajasthan.
Group E: Mumbai: Baroda vs. Punjab; Goa vs. Madhya Pradesh; Bengal vs. Nagaland.
All matches start at 9.00 a.m. IST.

Devdutt Padikkal is an addition to the squad this year and will draw inspiration from his 609 runs in the 2019 leg, the highest in the edition, when Karnataka last lifted the trophy.

Vidwath Kaverappa will be Karnataka's strike bowler.

The challenger for the top spot will be Delhi, under the charge of Yash Dhull.

Ayush Badoni, Suyash Sharma, and Anuj Rawat proved pivotal in the shorter white-ball format last month and will be crucial in the longer one as well.

The other teams in the group are Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Bihar, and Mizoram.

Surya claims seven for BEL Colony

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Sri Surya Bondu's seven-wicket haul (7/30) helped BEL Colony RC defeat Eminent Cricketers by 176 runs in KSCA (Group I) fourth division tournament.

The scores: Young Lions Club 284/9 in 50 overs (P. Pramodh 58, Aman Raj 44, N. Gopinath Saandra 46, Pavan Kumar 43 n.o., K.C. Kishan 3/36) bt Elite Blues 197 in 43.1 overs (K.C. Kishan 47, Ajay G. Suresh 30, Rajiv Lochan 34, A.R. Ullas 3/36, B.N. Suraj Reddy 3/29).

Magadi 72 in 24.5 overs (Udhay Girish 36, Dhruv Vasu 3/23) lost to Young Challenging Cricketers 73/1 in 14.1 overs (Siddesh A. Asalkar 33 n.o., Raag Punja 31 n.o.).

BEL Colony 281/5 in 36 overs (K.A. Vijay 55, Mit Daxesh Patwa 102 n.o., S. Ashwin Ram 70 n.o., Mohan Raj 3/36) bt Eminent Cricketers 105 in 29.4 overs (Sri Surya Bondu 7/30). Match reduced to 36 overs per side because of wet outfield.

Palar, Kolar 196/9 in 50 overs (H. Raghavendra 71, Balu Dilip Kumara 38 n.o., Zahoor Faroqui 3/28) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 118 in 38 overs (Krishiv Bajaj 43, Syed Khaja Moinuddin 4/17).

Crescent (1) 152 in 44.4 overs (Abdul Junaid 52, Advaith Karthik 44, Anurag Bajpai 3/21) lost to Yankees 154/3 in 44.4 overs (V. Chiranth 47, Mohammed Waheed Qureshi 49 n.o., Sachin Rajput 35 n.o.).

Select Cricketers 224/6 in 50 overs (Rupak 82, Albin Mathew Philip 56 n.o.) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 225/1 in 41.2 overs (Jagadesh Babu Thangavelu 53, N.S. Shaurya 61, Sundar 80 n.o.).

Merchant (1) 106 in 28.3 overs (K.B. Pruthviraj 52, H.S. Shashidhar 3/18, Avishek 3/15) lost to Vijaya, Malur 109/3 in 16 overs (P. Naveen Krishna 42 n.o., Avishek 43 n.o.).

Sparton 291 in 50 overs (C. Thippesh 31, Majid K. Makandar 36, D. Ashok 119, S. Vishwa 3/54, Gaurav 4/33) bt City Cricketers (1) 185 in 43.1 overs (Gaurav 51, D. Ashok 3/29).

Neptune 346/6 in 50 overs (Rayan Ahmed 85, N. Bharath 53, C.K. Akshay 126) bt Star Sports Club, Nelamangala 105 in 23.3 overs (Sandipan Roy 5/37).

National United 167 in 46.3 overs (K.P. Jefin 35, K.A. Aries 33, N. Niranjan 5/25) bt Sirurpark 128 in 32.1 overs (D. Manjunath Reddy 31, Yeshwanth 3/19).

Duleep Cricketers 208 in 43.1 overs (Narasimha Yenumula 39, N. Ashoka 62, S. Subbu Yadav Prasad 50, Ramanand Shanbal 3/48) tied with Sapphire 208 in 45 overs (Shameek Kolambkar 34, Angadraj Sangam Hittalamani 71, S. Subbu Yadav Prasad 3/27, Lohith Gowda 3/29).

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